



# Discovery of Strongly Inverted Metallicity Gradients in Dwarf Galaxies at $z \sim 2$

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## Abstract

We report the first measurements with sub-kiloparsec spatial resolution of strongly inverted gas-phase metallicity gradients in two dwarf galaxies at  $z \sim 2$ . The galaxies have stellar masses  $\sim 10^8 M_{\odot}$ , specific star formation rate  $\sim 20 \text{ Gyr}^{-1}$ , and global metallicity  $12 + \log(\text{O}/\text{H}) \sim 8.1$  (1/4 solar), assuming the strong-line calibrations of  $[\text{O III}]/\text{H}\beta$  and  $[\text{O II}]/\text{H}\beta$  from Maiolino et al. Their radial metallicity gradients are measured to be highly inverted, i.e.,  $0.122 \pm 0.008$  and  $0.111 \pm 0.017 \text{ dex kpc}^{-1}$ , which is hitherto unseen at such small masses in similar redshift ranges. From the *Hubble Space Telescope* observations of the source nebular emission and stellar continuum, we present two-dimensional spatial maps of star formation rate surface density, stellar population age, and gas fraction, which show that our galaxies are currently undergoing rapid mass assembly via disk inside-out growth. More importantly, using a simple chemical evolution model, we find that the gas fractions for different metallicity regions cannot be explained by pure gas accretion. Our spatially resolved analysis based on a more advanced gas regulator model results in a spatial map of net gaseous outflows, triggered by active central starbursts, that potentially play a significant role in shaping the spatial distribution of metallicity by effectively transporting stellar nucleosynthesis yields outwards. The relation between wind mass loading factors and stellar surface densities measured in different regions of our galaxies shows that a single type of wind mechanism, driven by either energy or momentum conservation, cannot explain the entire galaxy. These sources present a unique constraint on the effects of gas flows on the early phase of disk growth from the perspective of spatially resolved chemical evolution within individual systems.

**Key words:** galaxies: abundances – galaxies: evolution – galaxies: formation – galaxies: high-redshift – gravitational lensing: strong

## 1. Introduction

Galaxy formation models require inflows and outflows of gas to regulate star formation (Finlator & Davé 2008; Recchi et al. 2008; Bouche et al. 2010; Davé et al. 2012; Dayal et al. 2013; Dekel et al. 2013; Lilly et al. 2013; Dekel & Mandelker 2014; Peng & Maiolino 2014; Pipino et al. 2014), yet this “baryon cycle” is not quantitatively understood. The oxygen abundance of the interstellar medium (ISM) (i.e., metallicity<sup>12</sup>) and its spatial distribution is fortunately a key observational probe of this process (Tremonti et al. 2004; Erb et al. 2006; Maiolino et al. 2008; Bresolin et al. 2009; Mannucci et al. 2010, 2011; Zahid et al. 2011, 2012, 2014; Yates et al. 2012; Henry et al. 2013a; Jones et al. 2013; Sanchez et al. 2014; Bresolin & Kennicutt 2015; Ho et al. 2015; Sanders et al. 2015; Strom et al. 2018). “Inside-out” galaxy growth implies that initially steep radial gradients of metallicity flatten at later times (higher masses) as disks grow larger, yet other scenarios suggest that metallicities are initially well mixed by strong galactic

feedback, and then locked into negative gradients as winds lose the power to disrupt massive gas disks (Hou et al. 2000; Prantzos & Boissier 2000; Mollá & Díaz 2005; Kobayashi & Nakasato 2011; Few et al. 2012; Pilkington et al. 2012; Gibson et al. 2013; Ma et al. 2017). What these scenarios have in common is that none of them predicts the existence of a steep positive (i.e., inverted) radial gradient such that metallicity increases with galactocentric radius.

However, there is growing evidence of such a phenomenon in both the local and distant universe (Cresci et al. 2010; Queyrel et al. 2012; Sanchez et al. 2014; Stott et al. 2014; Troncoso et al. 2014; Pérez-Montero et al. 2016; Wuyts et al. 2016; Belfiore et al. 2017; Carton et al. 2018). The key reason for local galaxies possessing inverted gradients is gas redistribution by tidal force in strongly interacting systems (Kewley et al. 2006, 2010; Rupke et al. 2010; Rich et al. 2012; Torrey et al. 2012). At high redshifts, inverted gradients are often attributed to the inflows of metal-poor gas from the filaments of the cosmic web, infalling directly onto galaxy centers, diluting central metallicities, and hence creating positive gradients (Cresci et al. 2010; Mott et al. 2013). Given

<sup>12</sup> Throughout the paper, we refer to gas-phase metallicity as metallicity for simplicity.

that most of the high- $z$  observations are conducted from the ground with natural seeing, the targets are usually super- $L_*$  galaxies with stellar mass ( $M_*$ )  $\gtrsim 10^{10} M_\odot$  (see, e.g., Troncoso et al. 2014).

These high- $z$  inverted gradients are in concert with the “cold-mode” gas accretion that has long been recognized to play a crucial role in galaxies getting their baryonic mass supply (Birnboim & Dekel 2003; Kereš et al. 2005, 2009; Dekel & Birnboim 2006; Dekel et al. 2009a). Instead of being shock-heated to the virial temperature of the dark matter (DM) halo ( $\sim 10^6$  K for a  $M_h \sim 10^{12} M_\odot$  halo) and then radiating away the thermal energy to condense and form stars (vis-à-vis “hot-mode” accretion), gas streams can remain relatively cold ( $< 10^5$  K) while being steadily accreted onto galaxy disks.<sup>13</sup> This cold accretion dominates the growth of galaxies forming in low-mass halos irrespective of redshifts since a hot permeating halo of virialized gas can only manifest in halos above  $(2\text{--}3) \times 10^{11} M_\odot$ , at  $z \lesssim 2$  (Birnboim & Dekel 2003; Kereš et al. 2005).

A question thus arises: if cold-mode gas accretion dominates in low-mass systems (with  $M_*$  less than a few  $10^{10} M_\odot$ ) and is thought to lead to inverted gradients under the condition that the incoming gas streams are centrally directed, can we observe this phenomenon in dwarf galaxies (with  $M_* \lesssim 10^9 M_\odot$ ) at high redshifts? The answer is not straightforward since the effect of ejective feedback (e.g., galactic winds driven by supernovae) is more pronounced in lower-mass galaxies, given their shallower gravitational potential wells and higher specific star formation rate (sSFR) (see, e.g., Hopkins et al. 2014; Vogelsberger et al. 2014). On one hand, galactic winds can bring about kinematic turbulence that prevents a smooth accretion of filamentary gas streams directly onto the galaxy center, resulting in rapid formation of in situ clumps (Dekel et al. 2009b). On the other hand, metal-enriched outflows triggered by these powerful winds can help remove stellar nucleosynthesis yields from the galaxy center (Tremonti et al. 2004; Erb et al. 2006). Therefore the existence of strongly inverted gradients in dwarf galaxies at high redshifts, if any, presents a sensitive test of the relative strength of feedback-induced radial gas flows in the early phase of the process of disk mass assembly. There have not been any attempts to investigate such existence, primarily due to the small sizes of these dwarf galaxies and sub-kiloparsec (sub-kpc) spatial resolution required to yield accurate gradient measurements (Yuan et al. 2013). In this work, we present the first effort to secure two robustly measured inverted metallicity gradients in  $z \sim 2$  star-forming dwarf galaxies from the *Hubble Space Telescope* (*HST*) near-infrared (NIR) grism slitless spectroscopy, aided by lensing magnification of galaxy clusters. The details of data and sample galaxies are presented in Section 2. We describe our methods alongside the main results in Section 3, and conclude in Section 4. Throughout this paper, a flat  $\Lambda$ CDM cosmology ( $\Omega_m = 0.3$ ,  $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.7$ ,  $H_0 = 70 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ ) is assumed.

## 2. Data and Galaxy Sample

The two galaxies with exceptional inverted gradients are selected from a comprehensive study of  $\sim 300$  galaxies with metallicity measurements at  $1.2 \lesssim z \lesssim 2.3$  (X. Wang et al. 2017,

2019, in preparation). Before we discuss the two systems in detail in Section 2.4, we give for convenience a brief summary of the spectroscopic data (Section 2.1), a concise description of the data reduction procedure (Section 2.2), and the ancillary imaging used in this work (Section 2.3).

### 2.1. HST Grism Slitless Spectroscopy

We use the diffraction-limited spatially resolved slitless spectroscopy, obtained using the *HST* Wide Field Camera 3 (WFC3) NIR grisms (G102 and G141), acquired by the Grism Lens-Amplified Survey from Space (GLASS, Schmidt et al. 2014; Treu et al. 2015). GLASS observes the distant universe through 10 massive galaxy clusters as natural telescopes, exposing 10 orbits of G102 (0.8–1.15  $\mu\text{m}$ ,  $R \sim 210$ ) and four orbits of G141 (1.1–1.7  $\mu\text{m}$ ,  $R \sim 130$ ) per sightline. This amounts to a total of  $\sim 22$  ks of G102 and  $\sim 9$  ks of G141, as well as  $\sim 7$  ks of F140W+F105W direct imaging for astrometric alignment and wavelength/flux calibrations per field. These exposures are distributed over two separate pointings per cluster with nearly orthogonal orientations, designed to help disentangle spectral contamination from neighboring objects. So two sets of G102+G141 spectra are obtained for each source, covering an uninterrupted wavelength range of 0.8–1.7  $\mu\text{m}$  with almost unchanging sensitivity, and reaching a  $1\sigma$  surface brightness of  $3 \times 10^{-16} \text{ erg s}^{-1} \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ arcsec}^{-2}$  across the entire spectral range. The GLASS collaboration has made the catalogs of their redshift identifications in the 10 fields, based on visual inspections of emission line (EL) features, publicly available at <https://archive.stsci.edu/prepds/glass/>.

### 2.2. Grism Data Reduction

To explore the chemical properties of galaxies at the peak epoch of cosmic chemical enrichment, we select from these catalogs a parent sample consisting of  $\sim 300$  galaxies with secure redshifts (i.e., redshift quality  $\geq 3$  in the publicly available catalogs as described by Treu et al. 2015) in the range  $1.2 \lesssim z \lesssim 2.3$ . This range is chosen for the detection of multiple nebular ELs<sup>14</sup>—in particular the Balmer lines, [O III], and [O II]—enabling the metallicity measurements, as in our earlier work (Jones et al. 2015b; Wang et al. 2017). The GLASS data for these  $\sim 300$  galaxies are reduced using the Grism Redshift and Line Analysis software (GRZILI,<sup>15</sup> G. Brammer et al. 2019, in preparation). GRZILI presents an end-to-end processing of the paired grism and direct exposures. The procedure includes five steps: (1) preprocessing of the raw grism exposures, (2) full field-of-view (FoV) grism model construction, (3) 1D/2D spectrum extraction, (4) solving for best-fit redshift from spectral template fitting (see Appendix A for more details), and (5) refining the full FoV grism model and extractions of source 1D/2D spectrum and EL stamps. In step (1), the preprocessing consists of hot-pixel/persistence masking, cosmic-ray flagging, flat-fielding, astrometric alignment, sky background subtraction, and extraction of visit-level source catalogs and segmentation maps. In step (5), the EL stamps are drizzled onto a grid with a pixel scale of  $0''.06$ , Nyquist sampling the WFC3 point-spread function. We apply an additional step on the GRZILI output products to

<sup>13</sup> Note, however, that cold-mode accretion does not necessarily imply that gas has to reach the galaxy center first given the large dynamic range of the scales of galaxy disks ( $\sim \text{kpc}$ ) and cosmic web ( $\sim \text{Mpc}$ ).

<sup>14</sup> The names of the forbidden lines are simplified as usual, if presented without wavelength numbers: [O III]  $\lambda 5008 :=$  [O III], [O II]  $\lambda \lambda 3727, 3730 :=$  [O II].

<sup>15</sup> <https://github.com/gbrammer/grizli/>

obtain pure 2D maps of [O III]  $\lambda 5008$  and  $H\beta$ , clean from the partial contamination of [O III]  $\lambda 4960$ , due to the limited grism spectral resolution and extended source morphology. Our procedure properly combines EL maps at multiple orientations, preserving angular resolution and accounting for EL blending.

### 2.3. HST Imaging: Estimating $M_*$ from SED Fitting

In addition to the deep NIR spectroscopy, there exists a wealth of ancillary imaging data with equally high spatial resolution on the 10 GLASS fields, which encompass all six clusters in the *Hubble* Frontier Fields (Lotz et al. 2017) and four from the Cluster Lensing and Supernova Survey with *Hubble* (Postman et al. 2012). This broadband photometry, covering observed wavelengths of  $\sim 0.4\text{--}1.7\ \mu\text{m}$ , can help constrain the properties of stellar populations (especially  $M_*$ ) in our selected  $\sim 300$  galaxies at sufficient confidence. We use the images sampled with  $0''.06$  pixel size, and apply kernel convolutions to match the angular resolution of all images to that of the F160W filter. We subtract contamination from intracluster light using established procedures (Morishita et al. 2017). Since our targets have rest-frame optical ELs with high equivalent widths (EWs), we subtract the *nebular* flux contribution from the broadband photometry to obtain the *stellar* continuum flux. As given in Appendix A, we model the nebular ELs as Gaussian profiles centered at the corresponding wavelengths. The nebular contribution to the broadband photometry is thereby estimated by convolving the filter throughput with the best-fit Gaussian profiles, and then subtracted off.<sup>16</sup> We then fit the spectral energy distribution (SED) of the *stellar* continuum with the stellar population synthesis models of Bruzual & Charlot (2003) using the software FAST (Kriek et al. 2009). We assume the initial mass function (IMF) of Chabrier (2003), constant star formation history, stellar dust attenuation in the range  $A_V^S = 0\text{--}4$  with an extinction curve from Calzetti et al. (2000), and age ranging from 5 Myr to the Hubble time at the redshifts of our targets. Stellar metallicity is fixed to one-fifth solar and we verify that this assumption affects the results by no more than  $<0.05$  dex on  $M_*$ .

### 2.4. Two Dwarf Galaxies with Strongly Inverted Metallicity Gradients

Out of the parent sample of  $\sim 300$  galaxies, we are able to secure accurate (i.e., at sub-kpc resolution) radial metallicity gradients on 81 sources with suitable spatial extent and nebular emission with high signal-to-noise ratio (S/N). These extended sources typically have half-light radii  $R_{50} \gtrsim 0''.15$ . In the range  $7 \lesssim \log(M_*/M_\odot) \lesssim 10$  given by the analyses in Section 2.3, our sample probes much lower  $M_*$  than other surveys of spatially resolved line emission at similar redshifts (Wuyts et al. 2016; Förster Schreiber et al. 2018), thanks to the enhanced resolution from lensing magnification, and high sensitivity of the *HST* NIR grisms. We have previously described the properties of 10 galaxies in our sample from the

cluster MACS 1149.6+2223 (X. Wang et al. 2017); results for the full sample are in preparation.

In most cases, we find that metallicity gradients are approximately flat (i.e., consistent with zero given the typical  $\sigma = 0.03$  dex  $\text{kpc}^{-1}$ ) or slightly negative. A minority (10/81) of our sample show positive (i.e., “inverted”) gradients, which are of interest because they pose a challenge to standard models of galactic chemical evolution (e.g., Mollá & Díaz 2005). We have selected the two best examples with strongly inverted gradients for further study in this paper. The two sources are ID 03751 ( $z = 1.96$ ,  $M_* = 1.12 \times 10^9 M_\odot$ ) in the prime field of A370, and ID 01203 ( $z = 1.65$ ,  $M_* = 2.55 \times 10^9 M_\odot$ ) in the prime field of MACS 0744.9+3927.

Table 1 presents their properties. Figure 1 shows the color-composite *HST* images of these two galaxies and their 2D spatially resolved maps of the nebular ELs. Remarkably, they have  $M_*$  considerably lower—by one order of magnitude—than those of previous positive gradients measured at similar redshifts (see, e.g., Cresci et al. 2010; Queyrel et al. 2012; Stott et al. 2014; Troncoso et al. 2014). To complement the low-dispersion grism spectra, we have obtained adaptive optics (AO)-assisted kinematic data on our sources using a ground-based integral-field unit (IFU) spectrograph when available. The observation of source ID 01203 is presented in Appendix B. The full data analysis is presented in Hirsten et al. (2019) in detail.

## 3. Methods and Results

In this section, we describe our key methods used to derive radial metallicity gradients (Section 3.1), 2D maps of SFR, average stellar population age, and gas fraction (Section 3.2), as well as spatial distributions of net gaseous outflow rate and mass loading factor (Section 3.3). The main results are presented alongside the corresponding methods.

### 3.1. Radial Metallicity Gradients

Since we infer metallicity from strong-line flux ratio diagnostics, calibrated by either empirical methods or theoretical methods, or a hybrid of both, it is essential to make sure that the line emission is not contaminated by ionization from an active galactic nucleus (AGN) or shock by excitation. As shown in Figure 2, we verify that our targets have a low probability ( $<10\%$ ) of being classified as AGNs according to the mass–excitation diagram (Juneau et al. 2014). Their individual radial annuli also have excitation and ionization states compatible with H II regions, as revealed in their loci in the “blue” diagnostic diagrams of  $f_{[\text{O III}] \lambda 5008}/f_{H\beta}$  versus  $f_{[\text{O II}] \lambda 4960}/f_{H\beta}$  (the middle panel of Figure 2) and  $O_{32} = (f_{[\text{O III}] \lambda 5008} + f_{[\text{O III}] \lambda 4960})/f_{[\text{O II}] \lambda 4960}$  versus  $R_{23} = (f_{[\text{O III}] \lambda 5008} + f_{[\text{O III}] \lambda 4960} + f_{[\text{O II}] \lambda 4960})/f_{H\beta}$  (the right panel of Figure 2) (Lamareille et al. 2004; Rodrigues et al. 2012; Jones et al. 2015a). Notably, the intrinsic ratios  $R_{23}$  and  $O_{32}$  decrease with galactocentric radius for both of our sources, indicative of positive radial gradients of metallicities, opposite to the normal trend, which is confirmed with direct metallicity measurements in nearby disk galaxies (see, e.g., Bresolin et al. 2009; Berg et al. 2015; Croxall et al. 2015, 2016). In the source ID 01203 covered by our follow-up OSIRIS observations (see Appendix B), its integrated  $f_{[\text{N II}] \lambda 6583}/f_{H\alpha}$  ( $\lesssim 0.1$  at  $3\sigma$ ) also shows no sign of AGN or shocked gas emission.

<sup>16</sup> For the two sources selected in Section 2.4, the reduction of broadband fluxes after subtracting nebular ELs measured in grism data is as follows. For ID 03751, the F140W and F105W fluxes are reduced by factors of 0.7 and 0.94, respectively. For ID 01203, the F140W and F105W fluxes are reduced by factors of 0.64 and 0.93, respectively.

**Table 1**  
Measured Quantities of the Two Dwarf Galaxies

ID	03751	01203
Cluster	A370	MACS 0744.9+3927
R.A. (deg.)	39.977361	116.197585
Decl. (deg.)	-1.591636	39.456698
$z_{\text{spec}}$	1.96	1.65
$\mu^a$	$6.35^{+0.40}_{-0.58}$	$2.25^{+0.04}_{-0.03}$
Observed emission line fluxes		
$f_{[\text{O III}]}$ [ $10^{-17}$ erg $\text{s}^{-1}$ $\text{cm}^{-2}$ ]	$111.41 \pm 0.84$	$117.66 \pm 1.17$
$f_{\text{H}\beta}$ [ $10^{-17}$ erg $\text{s}^{-1}$ $\text{cm}^{-2}$ ]	$17.68 \pm 0.68$	$17.46 \pm 1.06$
$f_{[\text{O II}]}$ [ $10^{-17}$ erg $\text{s}^{-1}$ $\text{cm}^{-2}$ ]	$29.57 \pm 0.51$	$34.00 \pm 0.96$
$f_{\text{H}\gamma}$ [ $10^{-17}$ erg $\text{s}^{-1}$ $\text{cm}^{-2}$ ]	$7.21 \pm 0.67$	$7.06 \pm 1.00$
Rest-frame equivalent widths		
$\text{EW}_{[\text{O III}]}$ [ $\text{\AA}$ ]	$466.22 \pm 3.52$	$797.14 \pm 7.95$
$\text{EW}_{\text{H}\beta}$ [ $\text{\AA}$ ]	$73.98 \pm 2.83$	$118.29 \pm 7.18$
$\text{EW}_{[\text{O II}]}$ [ $\text{\AA}$ ]	$79.14 \pm 1.37$	$123.91 \pm 3.50$
$\text{EW}_{\text{H}\gamma}$ [ $\text{\AA}$ ]	$30.18 \pm 2.82$	$25.73 \pm 3.68$
Estimated physical parameters		
$M_*$ [ $10^9 M_\odot$ ] <sup>b</sup>	$1.12^{+0.14}_{-0.14}$	$2.55^{+0.04}_{-0.04}$
$12 + \log(\text{O}/\text{H})$ <sup>c</sup>	$8.08^{+0.11}_{-0.12}$	$8.10^{+0.11}_{-0.11}$
$\Delta \log(\text{O}/\text{H})/\Delta r$ [dex $\text{kpc}^{-1}$ ]	$0.122 \pm 0.008$	$0.111 \pm 0.017$
SFR [ $M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ] <sup>b</sup>	$25.39 \pm 2.19$	$48.86 \pm 3.04$
$A_V$	$0.84 \pm 0.13$	$0.90 \pm 0.16$
$t_{\text{age}}$ [ $10^7$ yr]	$7.93 \pm 0.88$	$3.98 \pm 0.51$
$M_{\text{gas}}$ [ $10^9 M_\odot$ ] <sup>b</sup>	$4.07 \pm 1.27$	$23.85 \pm 7.33$
$f_{\text{gas}}^d$	$0.56 \pm 0.24$	$0.86 \pm 0.35$
$B/T^e$	$0.36 \pm 0.14$	$0.14 \pm 0.07$
$R_{\text{eff}}$ [kpc] <sup>b</sup>	$1.53 \pm 0.12$	$1.66 \pm 0.17$
Gas kinematics		
$\sigma$ [ $\text{km s}^{-1}$ ]	...	$73 \pm 3$
$V/\sigma$	...	$1.3 \pm 0.1$
Measurements of the gaseous outflows at the central 1 kpc		
$\lambda$	$49.9 \pm 14.7$	$52.1 \pm 20.2$
$\Psi$ [ $M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}$ ]	$311.3 \pm 96.2$	$1700.9 \pm 681.9$

### Notes.

<sup>a</sup> The magnification estimates are obtained from the SHARON & JOHNSON version 4 model of A370 (Johnson et al. 2014) and the Zitirin PIEMD+eNFW version 2 model of MACS 0744.9+3927 (Zitirin et al. 2015), for the two sources respectively.

<sup>b</sup> Values presented here are corrected for lensing magnification.

<sup>c</sup> Values represent global metallicity, inferred from integrated line fluxes.

<sup>d</sup> Here the gas fraction is calculated according to Equation (3), using surface densities of the stellar and gas components, the latter of which is given by inverting the extended Schmidt law (Equation (4)) and the former from spatially resolved SED fitting. We caution that stellar mass estimates from resolved photometry can be systematically higher (by factors of up to 5) than spatially unresolved photometry, as elaborated in Sorba & Sawicki (2018). In our cases, the total stellar masses derived from adding up stellar surface densities given by resolved photometry amount to  $(3.20 \pm 1.92) \times 10^9 M_\odot$  and  $(3.88 \pm 2.76) \times 10^9 M_\odot$ , for ID 03751 and ID 01203, respectively.

<sup>e</sup> In the bulge-disk decomposition, we fix the Sérsic index as  $n = 4$  (i.e., de Vaucouleurs) for the bulge component, and  $n = 1$  (i.e., exponential) for the disk component.

<sup>f</sup> Ground-based Keck OSIRIS follow-up observations targeting  $\text{H}\alpha$  or  $[\text{O III}]$  gas kinematics for this source are not feasible due to significantly low atmospheric transmission at the corresponding wavelengths.

Our measurements of radial metallicity gradients largely follow the procedures described in our previous work (Wang et al. 2017). We use a Bayesian approach to jointly infer

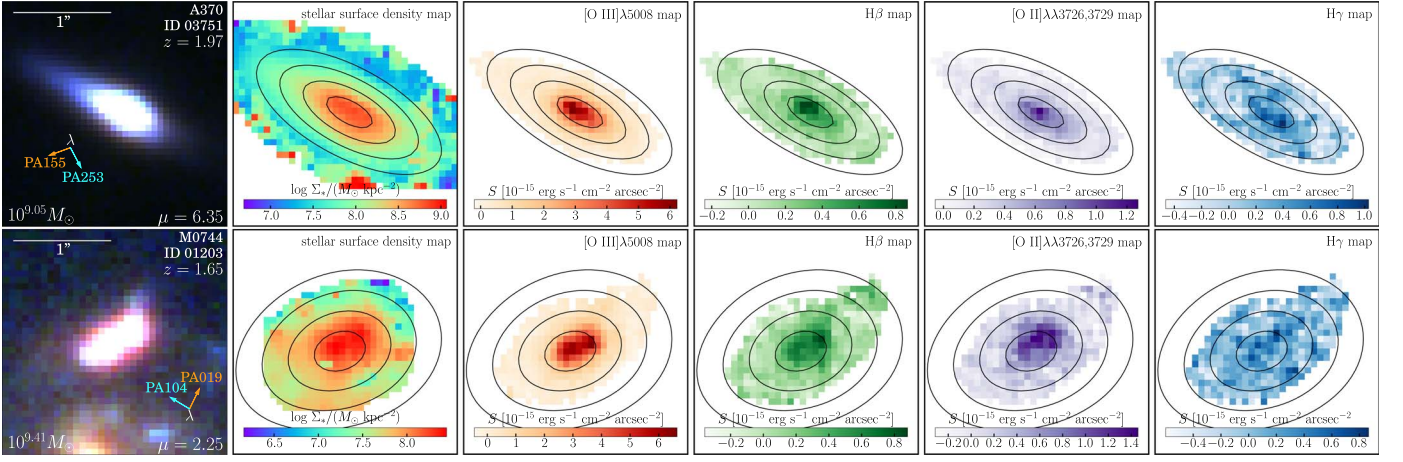
metallicity ( $12 + \log(\text{O}/\text{H})$ ), nebular dust extinction ( $A_V^N$ ), and dereddened  $\text{H}\beta$  flux ( $f_{\text{H}\beta}$ ). We explore the parameter space using the Markov chain Monte Carlo sampler EMCEE (Foreman-Mackey et al. 2013). The likelihood function is given by  $L \propto \exp(-\chi^2/2)$  with

$$\chi^2 = \sum_i \frac{(f_{\text{EL}_i} - R_i f_{\text{H}\beta})^2}{(\sigma_{\text{EL}_i})^2 + (f_{\text{H}\beta})^2 (\sigma_{R_i})^2}, \quad (1)$$

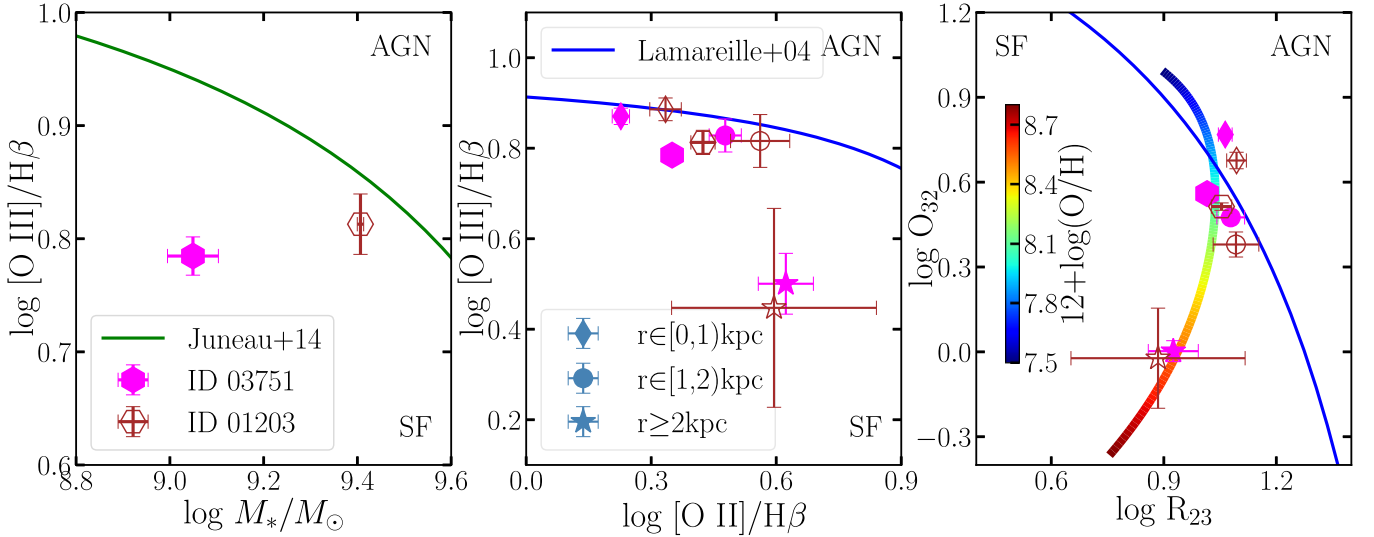
where  $\text{EL}_i$  corresponds to each available EL:  $[\text{O III}]$ ,  $\text{H}\beta$ ,  $[\text{O II}]$ , and  $\text{H}\gamma$ . As shown in Figures 8 and 9 in Appendix A,  $\text{H}\delta$  is only weakly detected for both of our galaxies, with  $\text{S/N} \lesssim 5$  from their spatially integrated grism spectra combined from two orientations, and thereby not included in our Bayesian analysis. On the other hand, our source spectra show marked detection of the EL  $[\text{Ne III}] \lambda 3869$ . However, due to the relatively low wavelength dispersion of the *HST* NIR grism channels (i.e.,  $R_{\text{G141}} \sim 130$  and  $R_{\text{G102}} \sim 210$ ),  $[\text{Ne III}] \lambda 3869$  is heavily blended with  $\text{He I } \lambda 3889 + \text{H8}$  on the red side and  $\text{H9}$  on the blue side. As a result, we exclude  $[\text{Ne III}]$  from our subsequent analyses as well.  $f_{\text{EL}_i}$  and  $\sigma_{\text{EL}_i}$  are the flux and uncertainty of  $\text{EL}_i$ .  $R_i$  is the flux ratio between  $\text{EL}_i$  and  $\text{H}\beta$ , with  $\sigma_{R_i}$  being the intrinsic scatter at fixed physical properties. In the case  $\text{EL}_i = \text{H}\gamma$ ,  $R_i$  is given by the Balmer decrement  $f_{\text{H}\gamma}/f_{\text{H}\beta} = 0.47$ . For  $\text{EL}_i \in \{[\text{O II}], [\text{O III}]\}$ ,  $R_i$  and  $\sigma_{R_i}$  are given by the strong-line metallicity diagnostics ( $f_{[\text{O III}]} / f_{\text{H}\beta}$  and  $f_{[\text{O II}]} / f_{\text{H}\beta}$ ) calibrated by Maiolino et al. (2008). The calibrations of Maiolino et al. (2008) combine the direct electron temperature measurements from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS) in the low-metallicity ( $12 + \log(\text{O}/\text{H}) \lesssim 8.35$ ) branch (Nagao et al. 2006) and the predictions of the photoionization model in the high-metallicity ( $12 + \log(\text{O}/\text{H}) \gtrsim 8.35$ ) branch (Kewley & Dopita 2002), providing a continuous and coherent recipe over a wide metallicity range.

Our metallicity inference presented here primarily originates from the flux ratios between the oxygen collisionally excited lines (CELs) (i.e.,  $[\text{O III}]$ ,  $[\text{O II}]$ ) and  $\text{H}\beta$  (see the recent review by Maiolino & Mannucci 2019 for pros and cons of all strong-line ratio diagnostics in the literature). Despite their bimodal relationship with metallicity,  $R_{23}$  and  $f_{[\text{O III}]} / f_{\text{H}\beta}$  are found to produce the best accuracy among all the strong-line ratios used in  $z \sim 2$  studies (Patrício et al. 2018). Notably, multiple independent analyses have shown that there is a clean metallicity sequence in the diagnostic diagram spanned by  $f_{[\text{O III}]} / f_{\text{H}\beta}$  and  $f_{[\text{O II}]} / f_{\text{H}\beta}$  (Andrews & Martini 2013; Gebhardt et al. 2016; Jones et al. 2015a; Curti et al. 2017, also see Figure 2). Since  $[\text{O III}]$  and  $[\text{O II}]$  are among the brightest and thus most accessible strong ELs in high- $z$  galaxies, the flux ratios involving oxygen CELs will remain the most promising diagnostics of  $\text{O}/\text{H}$ , since they trace directly the emissivities and abundances of the oxygen ions.

In Appendix C, we perform a comparative study of measuring metallicity gradients with the pure empirical calibrations by Jones et al. (2015a) and Curti et al. (2017), based upon the metallicity measurements using electron temperature from the data sets of DEEP2 (at  $z \sim 0.8$ , Newman et al. 2013) and the SDSS (at  $0.027 < z < 0.25$ , Abazajian et al. 2009). We find that the systematic differences between the absolute gradient slopes derived assuming different strong-line calibrations can be as high as  $0.06 \text{ dex kpc}^{-1}$ . However, a



**Figure 1.** Two star-forming dwarf galaxies at  $z \sim 2$  displaying unusually strong inverted metallicity gradients, securely determined at sub-kpc spatial resolution. For each source we show, from left to right: color-composite image (created from *HST* broadband photometry), map of stellar surface density (obtained from SED fitting to *HST* photometry), and map of surface brightness of ELs [O III], H $\beta$ , [O II], and H $\gamma$ . The black contours overlaid represent the source-plane deprojected galactocentric radii with 1 kpc intervals. The two light-dispersion directions for the grism exposures are denoted by the orange and cyan arrows (see Figures 8 and 9 for the corresponding spectra). The spatial extent and orientation are unchanged for the two sources in all 2D stamps throughout. North is up and east is to the left.



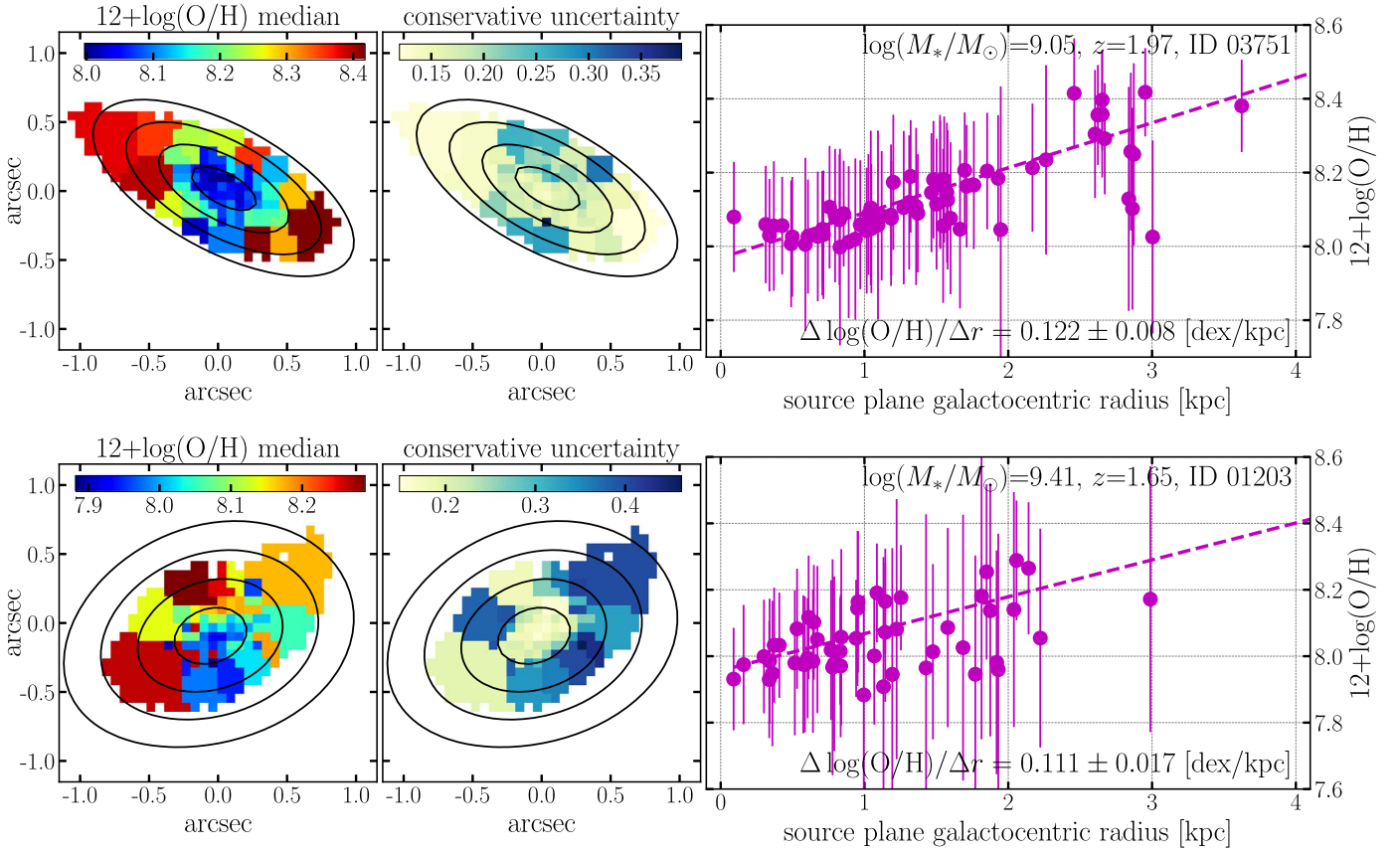
**Figure 2.** Diagnostic diagrams for our sources. On the left, we show the mass–excitation diagram with the demarcation scheme between the loci of AGNs and star-forming (SF) galaxies proposed in Juneau et al. (2014). Our galaxies can be safely classified as the latter. In the middle and right panels, we show the “blue” diagrams with the boundaries described by Lamareille et al. (2004). Following the conventions in the left panel, we use filled symbols to represent measurements for ID 03751 and empty ones for ID 01203. Furthermore, the hexagons correspond to the measurements integrated over the entire galaxies (as in the left panel), whereas the other symbols denote results obtained in different radial annuli, as explained in the legend of the middle panel. Again we see that the contamination from AGN ionization is minimum for our sources, even in the central regions. In the right panel, we also show the gas-phase metallicities given by the calibrations of Maiolino et al. (2008) involving  $R_{23}$  and  $O_{32}$ . The two galaxies presented in this work share similar evolutionary trends in their excitation and ionization states with respect to galactocentric radius, strongly indicating that their metallicity increases with galactocentric radius. All the line flux ratios are corrected for dust extinction following the law of Cardelli et al. (1989) with nebular attenuation estimated from the observed Balmer decrement of  $f_{H\gamma}/f_{H\beta}$  under the assumption of Case B recombination conditions.

positive radial gradient slope can always be recovered in each of our sources at high statistical significance, regardless of the calibrations used (see Appendix C for more details). We thus verify that there is no significant bias from the strong-line calibrations adopted in our gradient measurements. The same process is applied both to galaxy-integrated fluxes and to fluxes contained in individual spatial pixels (spaxels).

To obtain the correct intrinsic deprojected distance scale for each spaxel, we conducted full morphological reconstruction of our sources in the source plane. We ray-trace the image of each galaxy to its source plane using up-to-date lens models for each cluster: the macroscopic model of SHARON & JOHNSON version 4 for A370 (Johnson et al. 2014), and the ZITRIN

version 2 model for MACS 0744.9+3927 (Zitrin et al. 2015). Other lens models are available for these clusters (e.g., Diego et al. 2018; Strait et al. 2018) and we verified that the morphology of each source is robust to the choice of model.

For each source, we fit the SED of individual spaxels using the procedures described in Section 2, obtaining the map of 2D stellar surface density ( $\Sigma_*$ ) shown in Figure 1. Then we reconstruct the  $\Sigma_*$  map in the source plane by de-lensing the surface densities according to the deflection field given by the macroscopic lens models. To minimize the stochasticity in stellar population synthesis (Fouesneau & Lançon 2010; Eldridge 2012), we make sure that the source-plane resolution elements during this reconstruction contain enough stellar



**Figure 3.** Metallicity maps and radial gradient measurements of the two galaxies. The left panels show the 2D maps of the median value estimates of metallicity, and the central panels show their conservative uncertainties (i.e., the larger side of the asymmetric  $1\sigma$  error bars). The right panels show the corresponding measurements of radial gradients. The black contours again mark the source-plane deprojected galactocentric distances as in Figure 1. We adopted weighted Voronoi tessellation (Cappellari & Copin 2003; Diehl & Statler 2006), with an S/N of 10 on [O III] for the binned metallicity maps. In the right column, these bins are plotted as individual data points. The dashed line denotes the linear regression from these points, with the measured radial slope shown at the bottom of each panel. For both galaxies, the radial gradient is strongly positive (i.e., inverted).

masses ( $\gtrsim 10^5 M_\odot$ ) to be representative of complete stellar populations. The axis ratios, inclinations, and major axis orientations are determined from an elliptical Gaussian fit. This procedure provides the intrinsic lensing-corrected morphology, and in particular, the galactocentric radius at each point of the observed images. The radial scale shown by black contours in all figures is used to establish the absolute metallicity gradient slope (i.e., in units of dex per proper kiloparsec). From the source-reconstructed morphology, we measure the effective radius where the enclosed mass reaches half the total mass of the source. The measurements are represented by  $R_{\text{eff}}$  in Table 1.

Figure 3 shows the 2D maps of metallicity of our selected two dwarf galaxies at  $z \sim 2$ . Clearly, the outskirts of our galaxies display highly elevated oxygen abundance ratios. In particular, the outskirts of ID 03751 are more metal-enriched by  $\sim 0.4$  dex (i.e., a factor of 2.5) than its center, and more metal-rich by  $\sim 0.2$  dex than the value inferred based on the fundamental metallicity relation (FMR) given its integrated  $M_*$  (Mannucci et al. 2010, 2011). Note that our metallicity measurements extend beyond the source effective radius to cover a large enough dynamic range, but not into the region where a plateau/flattening in metallicity (i.e., at  $R > (2-2.5)R_{\text{eff}}$ , Sanchez et al. 2014; Sánchez-Menguiano et al. 2016) is likely to occur, which might bias the overall gradient determination. For the first time, we are able to detect strongly inverted metallicity gradients in  $z \sim 2$  dwarf galaxies at unprecedentedly high confidence:

$0.122 \pm 0.008 \text{ dex kpc}^{-1}$  for ID 03751 ( $\sim 15.2\sigma$ ) and  $0.111 \pm 0.017 \text{ dex kpc}^{-1}$  for ID 01203 ( $\sim 6.5\sigma$ ).

The question is thus: what caused these dwarf galaxies to have such strongly inverted gradients? First of all, our sources show no evidence of major mergers, supported by their regular morphology displayed in the 2D maps of  $M_*$  and EL surface brightness in Figure 1. For source ID 01203 with OSIRIS data, this statement is further strengthened by the kinematic evidence of orderly rotation in the disk. Second, the fact that the outskirts of our sources show elevated metallicity as compared to the FMR expectations indicates that there are more metals in the outer regions than could be produced by the stars in those regions. This discourages any explanations involving solely low-metallicity gas inflows, not limited to those induced by mergers. In the subsequent sections, we thus gather all available pieces of observational evidence to further investigate the possible cause.

### 3.2. SFR, Stellar Population Age, and Gas Fraction

To understand the cause of the strongly inverted metallicity gradients seen in these dwarf galaxies, we combine their EL maps with *HST* broadband photometry to derive 2D maps of  $M_*$ , SFR, stellar population age, and gas surface density for each galaxy. The SFR is derived from extinction-corrected Balmer emission line flux. Maps of  $H\beta$  and  $H\gamma$  emission are shown in Figure 1. The  $H\beta/H\gamma$  line ratio provides a

measurement of nebular extinction although it is limited by the modest S/N of  $H\gamma$ . We obtain more precise results from *HST* photometry, by converting  $B_{435} - I_{814}$  color maps to spatial distributions of stellar reddening  $E_S(B - V)$  (Daddi et al. 2004). Nebular reddening  $E_N(B - V)$  is then calculated following Valentino et al. (2017). The nebular reddening maps of both our galaxies show lower dust attenuation in centers than that in outskirts, consistent with the inverted metallicity gradients shown in Figure 3.

We calculate extinction in  $H\beta$  adopting a dust extinction law of Cardelli et al. (1989) (with  $R_V = 3.1$ ) and assuming Case B recombination with Balmer ratios appropriate for fiducial H II region properties (i.e.,  $H\alpha/H\beta = 2.86$ ). Finally, we convert intrinsic  $H\alpha$  luminosity to SFR through the commonly used calibration (Kennicutt 1998a),

$$\text{SFR} = 4.6 \times 10^{-42} \frac{L(H\alpha)}{\text{erg s}^{-1}} (M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1}), \quad (2)$$

appropriate for the IMF of Chabrier (2003). This provides the instantaneous star formation rate on  $\sim 10$  Myr timescales; we note that the ultraviolet continuum probed by *HST* photometry is sensitive to recent SFR over a longer time span ( $\sim 100$ – $300$  Myr). The short timescales probed by Balmer emission are most relevant for determining outflow physical properties, which are highly dynamic on small spatial scales, e.g., at sub-kpc level.

Next we derive maps of average stellar age, using the spatial distribution of EL EWs as the primary constraint. We calculate  $H\beta$  rest-frame EWs from our maps of the emission line flux and stellar continuum flux density. Stellar continuum maps are corrected for emission line contamination as described in Section 2. We correct for stellar Balmer absorption, which we estimate to be rest-frame EW  $\sim 3 \text{ \AA}$  in  $H\beta$  based on the derived galaxy properties (Kashino et al. 2013). Maps of  $H\beta$  EW are then converted to average stellar age using a series of STARBURST99 stellar population synthesis models (Leitherer et al. 1999; Zanella et al. 2015) and assuming one-fifth solar metallicity and constant star formation history.

We also compare the age estimates given by our SED fitting (Section 2) and  $H\beta$  rest-frame EW using the method described above. The median values given by the former practice are systematically larger than those of the latter by  $\sim 0.5$  dex, but we note that the uncertainties by the SED fitting are usually much larger due to the absence of prominent continuum spectral age indicators, e.g.,  $D_n(4000)$  and  $H\delta_A$  (Kauffmann et al. 2003). Hence, we adopt the results from  $H\beta$  rest-frame EW as the average age for stellar populations throughout our paper, because we consider this a more reliable estimate.

Finally, we calculate the gas fraction defined as

$$f_{\text{gas}} = \Sigma_{\text{gas}} / (\Sigma_{\text{gas}} + \Sigma_*) . \quad (3)$$

Since we do not directly observe the bulk of interstellar gas, we instead estimate gas surface density  $\Sigma_{\text{gas}}$  by inverting the Kennicutt–Schmidt (KS) law (Schmidt 1959; Kennicutt 1998b), i.e.,  $\Sigma_{\text{SFR}} \propto \Sigma_{\text{gas}}^N$  together with our measurements of  $\Sigma_{\text{SFR}}$  described above. We adopt the more robust extended version of the KS law developed by Shi et al. (2011, 2018),

which is especially useful in low density regimes:

$$\frac{\Sigma_{\text{SFR}}}{M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1} \text{ kpc}^{-2}} = 10^{-4.76} \left( \frac{\Sigma_*}{M_\odot \text{ pc}^{-2}} \right)^{0.545} \left( \frac{\Sigma_{\text{gas}}}{M_\odot \text{ pc}^{-2}} \right)^{1.09} . \quad (4)$$

This extended KS law has been tested in numerous ensembles of galaxies as well as regions of low surface brightness in individual galaxies, and is shown to have relatively small scatter ( $\sim 0.3$  dex) over a large dynamic range of gas and SFR surface densities. We have combined in quadrature this systematic uncertainty of 0.3 dex in our estimates of  $\Sigma_{\text{gas}}$ .

Figure 4 shows the derived 2D maps of SFR, average stellar age, and gas fraction. In general, we observe centrally concentrated star formation, with the most actively star-forming regions having surface densities  $\gtrsim 10 M_\odot \text{ yr}^{-1} \text{ kpc}^{-1}$ . On average, the central regions also have older stellar populations and smaller gas fractions than the outskirts, indicating that the outer regions are still in the early stages of converting their gas into stars. These features together indicate that we are witnessing the rapid build-up of galactic disks through in situ star formation and strongly support an inside-out mode of galaxy growth (Jones et al. 2013; Nelson et al. 2014).

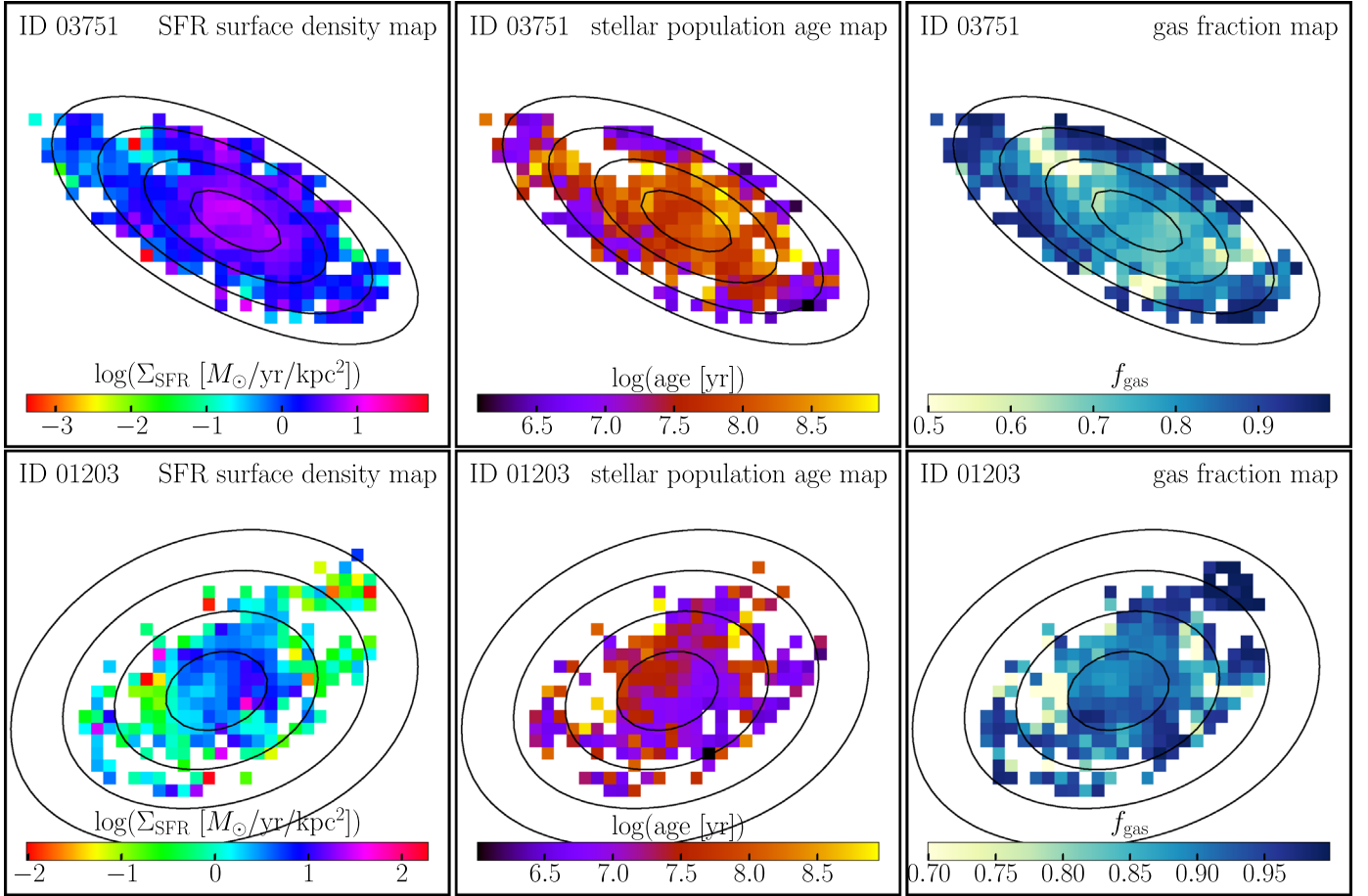
We compare our radially averaged  $f_{\text{gas}}$  and metallicity measurements against the predictions from the simple chemical evolution model developed by Erb (2008). To separate the effects of gas inflows and outflows, we compute two extreme sets of models, one being pure gas accretion (i.e., with no outflows,  $f_o = \Psi/\text{SFR} = 0$ ) and the other corresponding to the leaky box model (i.e., with no inflows,  $f_i = \Phi/\text{SFR} = 0$ ). The results are shown in Figure 5. We note that for the pure gas accretion scenario,  $f_{\text{gas}}$  cannot decrease beyond a certain value, i.e.,

$$f_{\text{gas}}^{\text{min}} = 1 - \frac{1 - R}{f_i - f_o}, \quad (5)$$

where  $f_o = 0$  and  $R$  is the instantaneous return fraction. This  $f_{\text{gas}}^{\text{min}}$ , implicitly imposed by Equation (11) of Erb (2008), physically indicates that galaxies cannot exhaust their gas reservoir to below a certain amount without the help of outflows, under the equilibrium condition with steady gas accretion (see Section 3.3 when this equilibrium assumption is relaxed). Therefore, the pure gas accretion scenario cannot explain the observed gas fractions in the central regions of our sources (at  $\lesssim 2$  kpc), where metallicities are also lower. The leaky box model, on the other hand, provides a plausible explanation for our observation such that the outflow rate tends to increase toward the galaxy center. However, we stress that in reality both gas outflows and inflows are acting together to redistribute metallicity. This test using simple chemical evolution models just clearly shows that using gas accretions *alone* cannot explain our spatially resolved measurements.

### 3.3. Spatially Resolved Gaseous Outflows

The application of simple chemical evolution in Section 3.2 is enlightening but depends on strong assumptions, such as that the azimuthal variations are negligible and galaxies exist in equilibrium. In reality, these conditions might not be valid, e.g., due to rapid gas flows. To gain a more precise understanding of the physics of galactic winds and the role of gaseous outflows in shaping the observed spatial distribution of metallicity,



**Figure 4.** Maps of SFR surface density, average stellar population age, and gas fraction for our galaxies, derived from our spatially resolved analysis of stellar continuum and nebular emission. The spatial extent and orientation are as in Figure 1. We see that the central regions of both sources have more active star formation, older stellar population, and lower gas fraction than their outskirts.

independent of those assumptions, we can turn to a more advanced framework for galaxy chemical evolution: the gas regulator model (Lilly et al. 2013; Peng & Maiolino 2014). This model provides an informative and coherent view of the full baryon cycle, involving the accretion of underlying DM halos, as well as the instantaneous regulation of star formation by a time-variable gas reservoir. A key feature of this model is that it does not assume that galaxies exist in an equilibrium state, where the total gas mass remains constant. The non-equilibrium flexibility is especially important for applying this model to spatially resolved regions within a galaxy, where gas may be transported radially from one region to another. Chemical evolution within the gas regulator model is described by the equations

$$\begin{aligned}
 Z_{\text{gas}} &= \left[ Z_0 + y\tau_{\text{eq}}\epsilon \left( 1 - \exp\left(-\frac{t}{\tau_{\text{eq}}}\right) \right) \right] \\
 &\quad \times \left[ 1 - \exp\left(\frac{-t/\tau_{\text{eq}}}{1 - \exp(-t/\tau_{\text{eq}})}\right) \right], \\
 \tau_{\text{eq}} &= \frac{1}{\epsilon(1 - R + \lambda)}. \tag{6}
 \end{aligned}$$

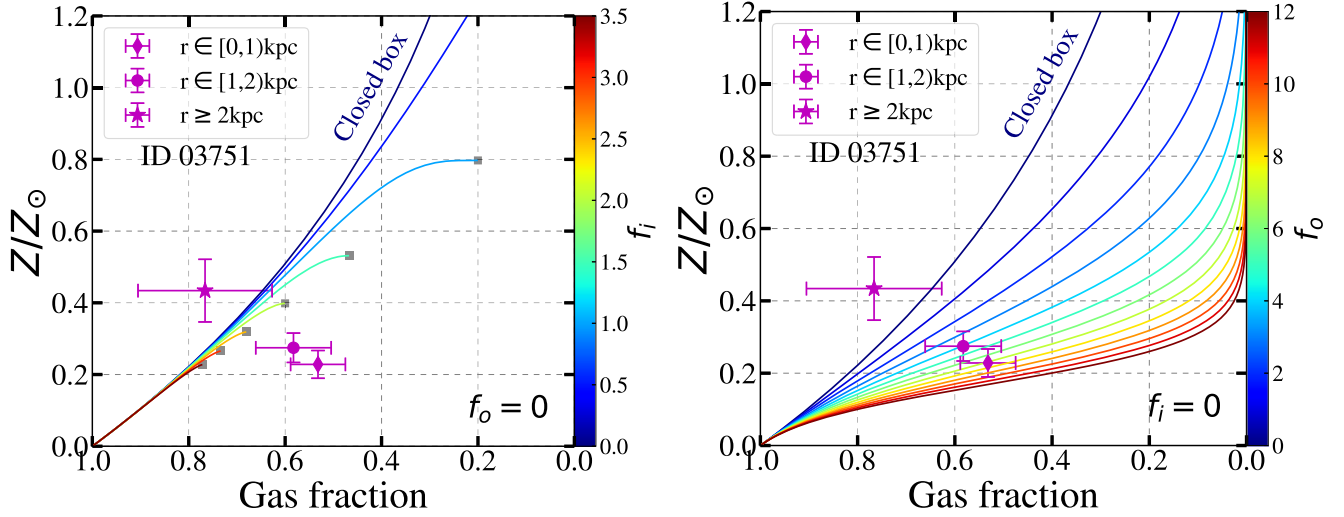
Here we adopt the convention of symbols itemized in Table 1 of Peng & Maiolino (2014):  $Z_{\text{gas}}$  is the mass fraction of metals in the gas reservoir (determined from the observed

$12 + \log(\text{O}/\text{H})$  as in Peebles & Shankar 2011),  $t$  is the average stellar population age,  $\tau_{\text{eq}}$  is the timescale on which the baryon cycle reaches equilibrium,  $\epsilon$  is the efficiency (defined as  $\epsilon \equiv \text{SFR}/M_{\text{gas}} = \Sigma_{\text{SFR}}/\Sigma_{\text{gas}}$ ), and  $\lambda$  is the mass loading factor (defined in terms of the mass outflow rate  $\Psi$ , such that  $\lambda = \Psi/\text{SFR}$ <sup>17</sup>). We adopt a stellar nucleosynthesis yield  $y = 0.003$  (Dalcanton 2007) with  $R = 0.4$  estimated from stellar population models of Bruzual & Charlot (2003). Finally, we assume that gas inflows are pristine ( $Z_0 = 0$ ).

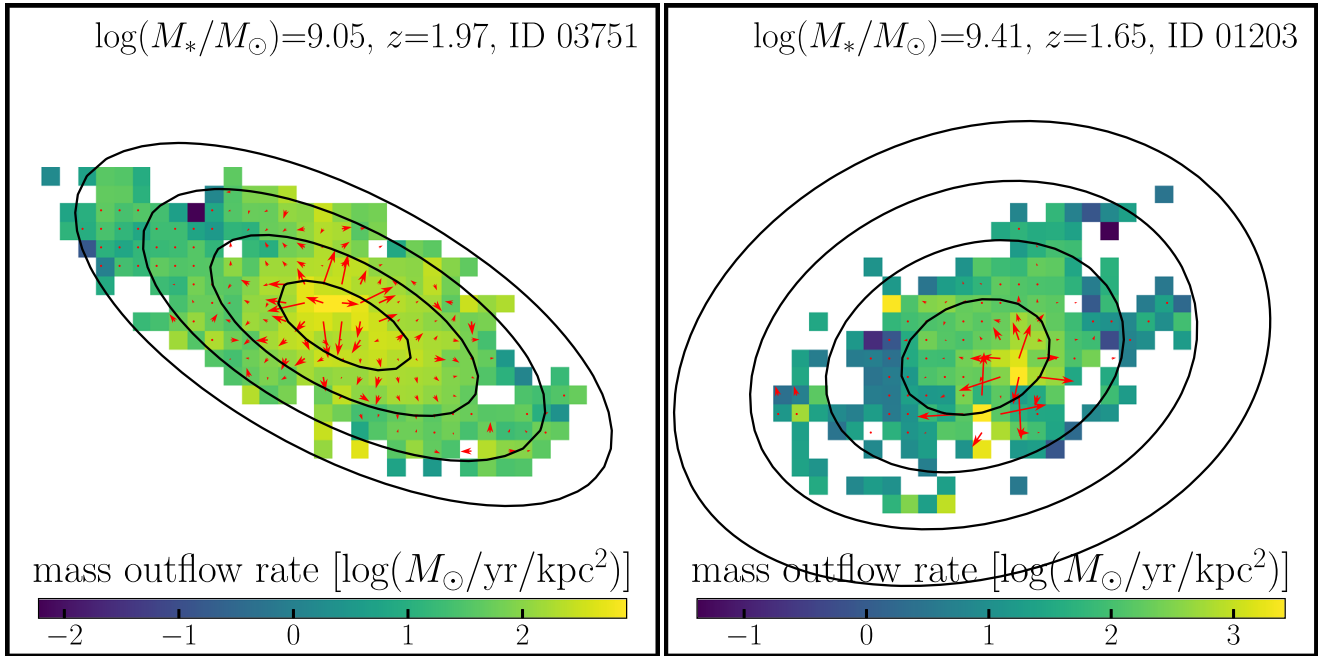
For each spatial region where we have estimated the metallicity, SFR, gas surface density, and age (Figures 3 and 4), we solve the above equations for the mass loading factor  $\lambda$  and subsequently calculate the mass outflow rate  $\Psi$ . The 2D distribution of  $\Psi$  is displayed in Figure 6. Taking the gradient field of this gaseous outflow map, we obtain the net direction of the outflowing mass flux on sub-galactic scales, projected along the line of sight, denoted by the red arrows in Figure 6. The results demonstrate that strong galactic winds transport mass from the center to the outskirts, with the net radial transport of heavy elements causing the inverted gradients observed in our targets.

The distribution of mass loading factors  $\lambda$  within each of our targets is also shown in Figure 7, revealing higher  $\lambda$  (and therefore a higher fraction of metals lost) in the central regions. This

<sup>17</sup> Note that  $\lambda$  and  $f_o$  in Section 3.2 represent the same quantity but here we are solving for  $\lambda$  in a spatially resolved fashion.



**Figure 5.** Gas fraction and metallicity estimated in different radial annuli for galaxy ID 03751. The diamond, circle, and star symbols represent measurements derived at a galactocentric radius of  $r \in [0, 1)$  kpc,  $r \in [1, 2)$  kpc, and  $r \geq 2$  kpc, respectively. We also overlay the curves calculated from a simple chemical evolution model (Erb 2008) under extreme conditions, i.e., pure gas inflow ( $f_o = 0$ ; left) and pure gas outflow ( $f_i = 0$ ; right). Note that the trajectories of pure gas inflow cases cease at the gray squares for conditions of high infall rate ( $f_i \gtrsim 1$ ); any extensions from those gray squares toward low gas fraction (while fixing metallicity) are unphysical. This simple comparison shows that purely gas accretion does not suffice to explain the strong inverted gradients seen in our galaxies.

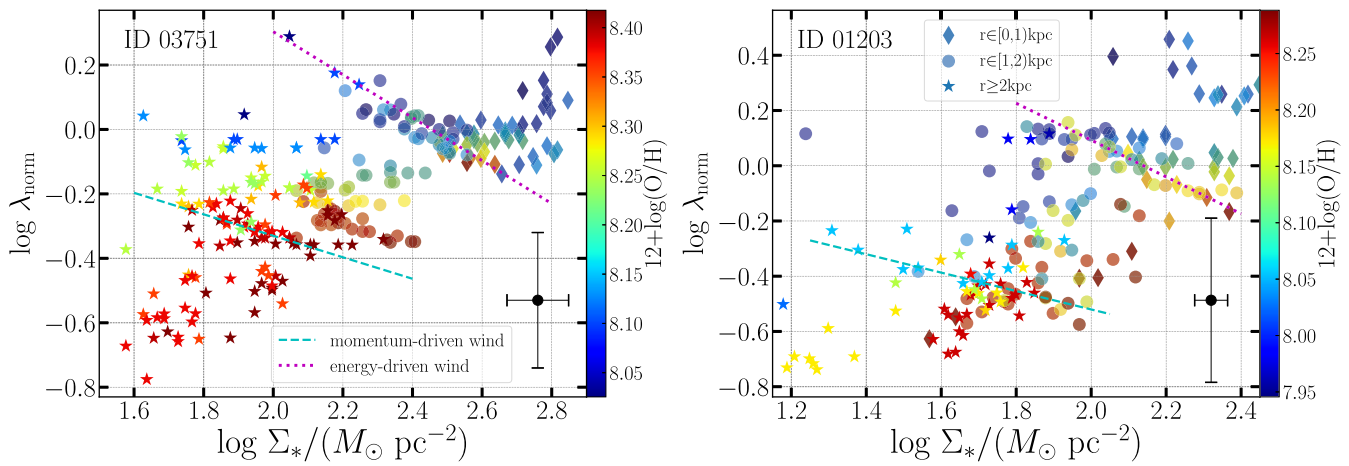


**Figure 6.** Maps of gaseous outflow rates derived from our analysis combining gas regulator models and empirical star formation laws. The spatial extent and orientation are as in Figure 1. Red arrows show the net direction and magnitude of the gaseous outflows driven by galactic winds. We argue that outflows play a key role in effectively transporting stellar nucleosynthesis yields from the inner regions of these two galaxies to their outskirts.

preferential removal of metals from the center, and subsequent deposition at larger radii, gives rise to the strong, positively sloped metallicity gradients evident in Figure 3. The high values of  $\lambda$  have important implications for the role of feedback in galaxy formation. Most fundamentally, our results support feedback as a solution to the “overcooling” problem in galaxy formation, by ejecting gas and preventing overly condensed baryonic regions at high redshifts (White & Rees 1978; Dekel & Silk 1986). Such strong outflows are also expected to suppress the formation of stellar bulges from gas with low angular momentum (Governato et al. 2010; Brook et al. 2012). This is consistent with low bulge

fraction in these two galaxies measured from high-resolution *HST* imaging (Table 1).

A key feature in the  $\lambda$  distribution is that neither of the wind modes, driven by momentum or energy conservation, can explain the behavior of the mass dependence of  $\lambda$  alone, *within* individual galaxies. Outflows are typically parameterized by either a momentum-driven (Oppenheimer & Davé 2006, 2008) or an energy-driven (Springel & Hernquist 2003) wind mode, both of which are physically well motivated (Murray et al. 2005). The energy-driven wind scenario assumes that outflows are launched by the thermal pressure of supernova explosions



**Figure 7.** Correlation between spatially resolved mass loading factor  $\lambda$  (normalized to the value at radius 1 kpc; see Table 1) and stellar surface density  $\Sigma_*$ , colored by metallicity. As in Figure 5, the diamond, circle, and star symbols represent measurements derived at a galactocentric radius of  $r \in [0, 1)$  kpc,  $r \in [1, 2)$  kpc, and  $r \gtrsim 2$  kpc, respectively. We overlay as an illustration two scaling relations that are commonly assumed to describe integrated measurements:  $\lambda \propto \Sigma_*^{-2/3}$  for an energy-driven wind model marked by magenta dotted lines, and  $\lambda \propto \Sigma_*^{-1/3}$  for a momentum-driven wind model marked by cyan dashed lines. Evidently, a single scaling relation is not sufficient to describe the spatially resolved data, demonstrating the need for a more sophisticated approach. The black point in the lower right corner in each panel displays the median uncertainties for these measurements.

and/or winds from massive stars. A portion of this thermal energy provides the outflow kinetic energy, i.e.,  $\Psi \times v_{\text{wind}}^2 \sim \text{SFR}$ , where the wind speed  $v_{\text{wind}}$  can mimic the escape velocity from the DM halo, i.e.,  $v_{\text{esc}} \sim M_{\text{h}}^{1/3}$  given by the virial theorem. This results in the scaling relation  $\lambda \propto M_*^{-2/3}$ , assuming the linear correlation between the mass constituents of stellar and dark components. The energy-driven wind model is found to be successful in explaining the low abundance of satellite galaxies in the Milky Way (Okamoto et al. 2010). The momentum-driven wind model instead relies on the momentum injection deposited by radiation pressure from supernova explosions and/or massive stars, leading to  $\Psi \times v_{\text{wind}} \sim \text{SFR}$  and  $\lambda \propto M_*^{-1/3}$ . In this scenario,  $v_{\text{wind}}$  is proportional to  $M_*$  and SFR, broadly consistent with some observational results (Martin 2005). The transition from energy- to momentum-driven winds is typically thought to be a galaxy-wide phenomenon, resulting in the steepening of the mass–metallicity relation below  $M_* \simeq 10^{9.3} M_{\odot}$  at  $z \simeq 2$  (Henry et al. 2013b). However, our analysis indicates that a single mode is not sufficient to describe spatially resolved data *within* one galaxy, and it is highly likely that the transition from energy- to momentum-driven winds occurs on sub-galactic scales, governed by local gas and star formation properties in addition to the global gravitational potential.

#### 4. Summary and Discussion

We present the first robust confirmation of the existence of a strongly inverted radial metallicity gradient (i.e.,  $\gtrsim 0.1$  dex  $\text{kpc}^{-1}$ ) in star-forming dwarf galaxies ( $M_* \lesssim 10^9 M_{\odot}$ ) at the peak of star formation and chemical enrichment ( $z \sim 2$ ). Our synergy of the diffraction-limited imaging spectroscopy from *HST* NIR grisms and lensing magnification permits exquisite spatial sampling, i.e., at the scale of 50–100 pc, to securely resolve our  $z \sim 2$  galaxies with  $\gtrsim 300$  resolution elements (Figures 1–3) to deliver precise measurements of the radial gradient. To understand the physical origin of these strongly inverted gradients, we obtain high-resolution 2D maps of star formation rate, characteristic stellar age (or equivalently star formation timescale), and gas fraction, from

*HST* observations of source stellar continuum and nebular emission. These 2D maps show that the galactic disks of our sources are rapidly assembling stellar mass through in situ star formation, in the early phase of inside-out growth (Figure 4). By comparing our observations with simple chemical evolution models, we find that gas accretion alone cannot explain these strongly inverted gradients in our galaxies (Figure 5).

Using a more advanced gas regulator model, we are able to calculate the spatial distribution of mass loss rates from outflows, treating each spaxel as an independent star-forming region, and thus map the macroscopic patterns of net gaseous outflows (Figure 6). It turns out that the mass loss rates are highest in the central regions of both galaxies, coincident with the peak star formation surface densities. A natural explanation is thus that active star formation in galaxy centers gives rise to powerful winds that transport gas and metals away from the center toward larger radii, forming “galactic fountains” (Martin et al. 2002).

Furthermore, our spatially resolved analysis of metals, SFR, and stellar populations shows that a single type of wind mechanism (either energy- or momentum-driven) cannot explain the entire galaxy (Figure 7). A primary physical parameter that has been proposed to set the transition between the two wind dynamics is the gravitational potential, often parameterized by velocity dispersion ( $\sigma$ ). There exists a critical scale  $\sigma_{\text{crit}}$  (Murray et al. 2005) such that for galaxies with  $\sigma < \sigma_{\text{crit}}$ , energy injection by supernovae sets a limiting SFR above which interstellar gas is ejected in galactic winds. For galaxies with  $\sigma > \sigma_{\text{crit}}$ , momentum deposition limits the maximum SFR above which the ISM is likewise ejected. The presence of both energy- and momentum-driven wind scalings in one galaxy suggests that feedback-triggered winds are connected to physical properties on sub-galactic scales, e.g., *local* velocity dispersion ( $\sigma_{\text{local}}$ ), which is sensitive to the optical depth of gas flows, the coupling efficiency between gas clouds and dust parcels, etc. On sub-galactic scales, there exists a strong correlation among velocity dispersion (not necessarily  $\sigma_{\text{local}}$ ), surface density, and size of molecular clouds (see Ballesteros-Paredes et al. 2011, and references therein). It

appears that in our galaxies, the wind-launching mechanism transitions from energy- to momentum-driven as galactocentric radius increases. This gives rise to a hypothesis that  $\sigma_{\text{local}}$  in our galaxies should increase from inner to outer regions. Our current kinematic data on source ID 01203 have high spatial resolution (at  $0''.05$  plate scale) yet narrow FoV so that it is infeasible to map velocity dispersion on a sub-kpc scale accurately to outer regions at  $r \gtrsim 2$  kpc, where momentum-driven wind seems to take over. To test this hypothesis conclusively, more spatially resolved data taken under sufficient spatial sampling will be required to robustly derive a full 2D map of velocity dispersion out to the periphery of the galactic disk, using instruments with relatively large FoV, e.g., the *James Webb Space Telescope* NIRSpec IFU (Kalirai 2018).

Physically, the momentum-driven wind scaling applies to “cool” ( $T \sim 10^4$  K) ambient interstellar gas entrained in outflows, whereas the energy-driven wind is appropriate when entrained gas is shock-heated to temperatures where cooling is inefficient ( $T \sim 10^6$  K). A plausible scenario for our galaxies is that feedback from an intense burst of star formation in the central regions heats the ejected gas to a highly ionized phase, while gas entrained in outflows from the outer regions remains cool. If this interpretation is correct, then we expect a distinct signature in the absorption properties of outflowing gas. Outflows from the central regions should be dominated by highly ionized species (e.g., O VI, C IV, Si IV) whereas outflows from the outer regions should have relatively more of the low ions characteristic of  $T \sim 10^4$  K gas (e.g., Fe II, Mg II, Si II). Both high and low ion species are commonly observed in outflows from star-forming galaxies at  $z \simeq 2$  (Berg et al. 2018; Du et al. 2018), although their spatial distributions are not yet well known (but see James et al. 2018). Our hypothesis suggests a more central concentration of the high ions in the specific cases where a combination of both outflow scalings results in inverted metallicity gradients. This prediction can be directly tested with spatially resolved spectroscopy of rest-frame ultraviolet absorption lines using instruments such as Keck/KCWI or VLT/MUSE.

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*Software:* Astropy (Price-Whelan et al. 2018), APLpy (Robitaille & Bressert 2012), ASTRODRIZZLE (Gonzaga 2012), EMCEE (Foreman-Mackey et al. 2013), FAST (Kriek et al. 2009), Galfit (Peng et al. 2002), SEXTRACTOR (Bertin & Arnouts 1996), VorBin (Cappellari & Copin 2003).

## Appendix A Extracting and Fitting 1D and 2D *HST* Grism Spectra

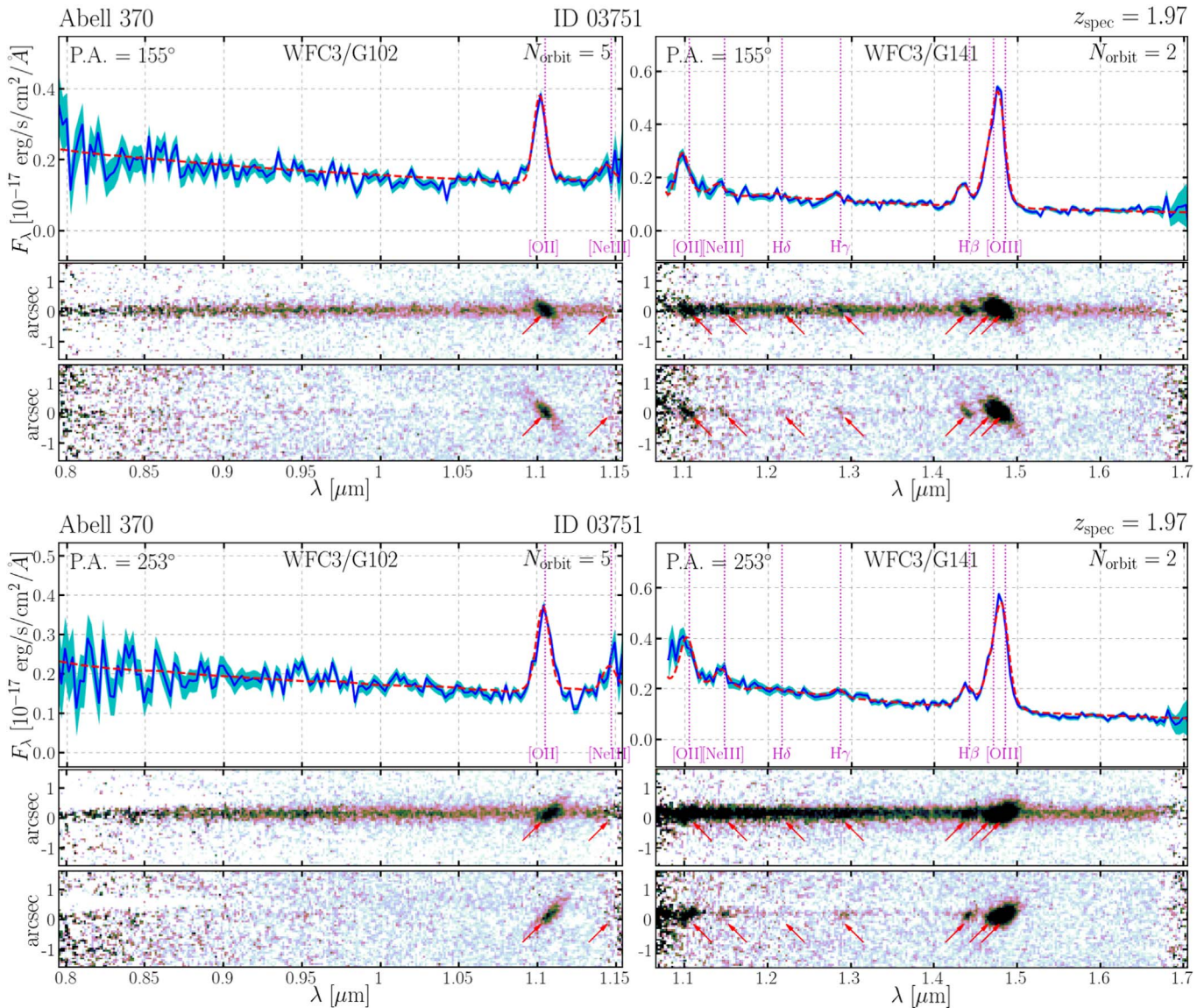
As briefly mentioned in Section 2.2, we employed the Grism Redshift and Line Analysis software GRZILI to reduce the *HST* WFC3/NIR grism data from raw exposures acquired by the GLASS program. Our primary goal is to obtain the spatially resolved emission line intensities after removing the contribution from source continuum. In terms of modeling the continuum spectrum, GRZILI first produces a simple flat (in  $F_\lambda$ ) spectral model for all sources within the WFC3 FoV with  $H_{160}$ -band magnitude brighter than 26 ABmag. The normalization is determined to match the flux in the corresponding reference image (in our cases, F105W as the reference to G102, and F140W to G141, ascribed to similar wavelength coverage). Then second-order polynomial functions are fitted to the sources whose  $H_{160}$ -band magnitude is brighter than 24 ABmag. This process is done iteratively, until a convergence point where the residual in the grism exposures after subtracting the fitted continuum models becomes negligible.

While the polynomially fitted continua serve as good enough models for contamination subtraction associated with neighboring objects, this polynomial functional form is clearly not physically representative of the actual SED of the underlying stellar continuum for our sources of interest. To facilitate a more accurate continuum subtraction, we further refine the source continuum model by considering primarily four template continuum spectra in a range of characteristic ages for stellar populations:

1. a low-metallicity Lyman-break galaxy (Q2343-BX418) showing very young, blue continuum (Erb et al. 2010);
2. an intermediate-age composite SED with moderate Balmer break and 4000 Å break, synthesized in Brammer et al. (2008) following the method of Blanton & Roweis (2007);
3. a post-starburst SED showing prominent Balmer break and 4000 Å break from the UltraVISTA survey (Muzzin et al. 2013);
4. a single stellar population SED with a 13.5 Gyr age and solar metallicity (Conroy & van Dokkum 2012).

This combination of both empirical and synthetic SED templates constitutes an optimized set appropriate for redshift fitting and continuum subtraction in our situation. As discussed in Brammer et al. (2008), there is a trade-off between the number of templates used in SED fitting and numerical efficiency, and they find that the improvement is negligible if the number of templates is increased to above 5. For a sanity check, we also ran the template fitting procedures using a more complete template library built from the Flexible Stellar Population Synthesis (FSPS) models (Conroy et al. 2009, 2010; Conroy & Gunn 2010) and found no noticeable changes in the determinations of spectroscopic redshift nor continuum subtractions.

In addition to fitting stellar continuum, we model the intrinsic nebular emission lines in 1D spectra as Gaussian functions. The amplitudes and flux ratios between most of the line species are allowed to vary (except for some certain line complexes, e.g.,  $f_{[\text{O III}] 5008}/f_{[\text{O III}] 4960} = 3:1$ ). Given the relatively low instrument resolution of *HST* grisms, the dynamic motions of gas and stellar components leave no effect on the



**Figure 8.** The *HST* grism spectra for source ID 03751 in the field of A370 taken by the GLASS program. The total science integration is equally distributed into two separate P.A.s, reaching five orbits of G102 exposures and two orbits of G141 exposures per P.A., shown in two subfigures. In each subfigure, from top to bottom, we show the optimally extracted 1D spectra and the full 2D spectra before and after source continuum subtraction, for both grism elements. On the 1D spectra, the observed flux is represented by the blue solid line with  $1\sigma$  noise level denoted by the cyan shaded band, and the 1D model spectrum (source continuum + nebular emission) is represented by the red dashed curve. The observed locations of emission features are highlighted by vertical dotted lines in magenta and arrows in red, in 1D and 2D spectra respectively. Note that due to low spectral resolution, [Ne III] is blended with He I  $\lambda 3889$  + H8 on the red side and H9 on the blue side.

observed profiles (both in 1D and 2D) of line emission/absorption features. However, for spatially extended sources, the effective spectral resolution is lowered by morphological broadening (van Dokkum et al. 2011), which usually varies with respect to the light-dispersion direction, i.e., the position angle (P.A.). We explicitly take the source morphology into account via convolving the model spectra (stellar continuum + nebular emission) with the direct image in reference frames averaged along light-dispersion directions.

As a result, in Figures 8 and 9, we show the observed and fitted grism spectra for both of our sources at separate P.A.s. Albeit slightly different in shape and slope, the red curves in 1D spectra come from the same best-fit spectral model for each source and the difference is due to slightly varying morphological broadening. We also see that the 2D continuum-subtracted spectra are sufficiently clean, preserving only the nebular emission features that we later combined to get the spatially resolved emission line maps shown in Figure 1.

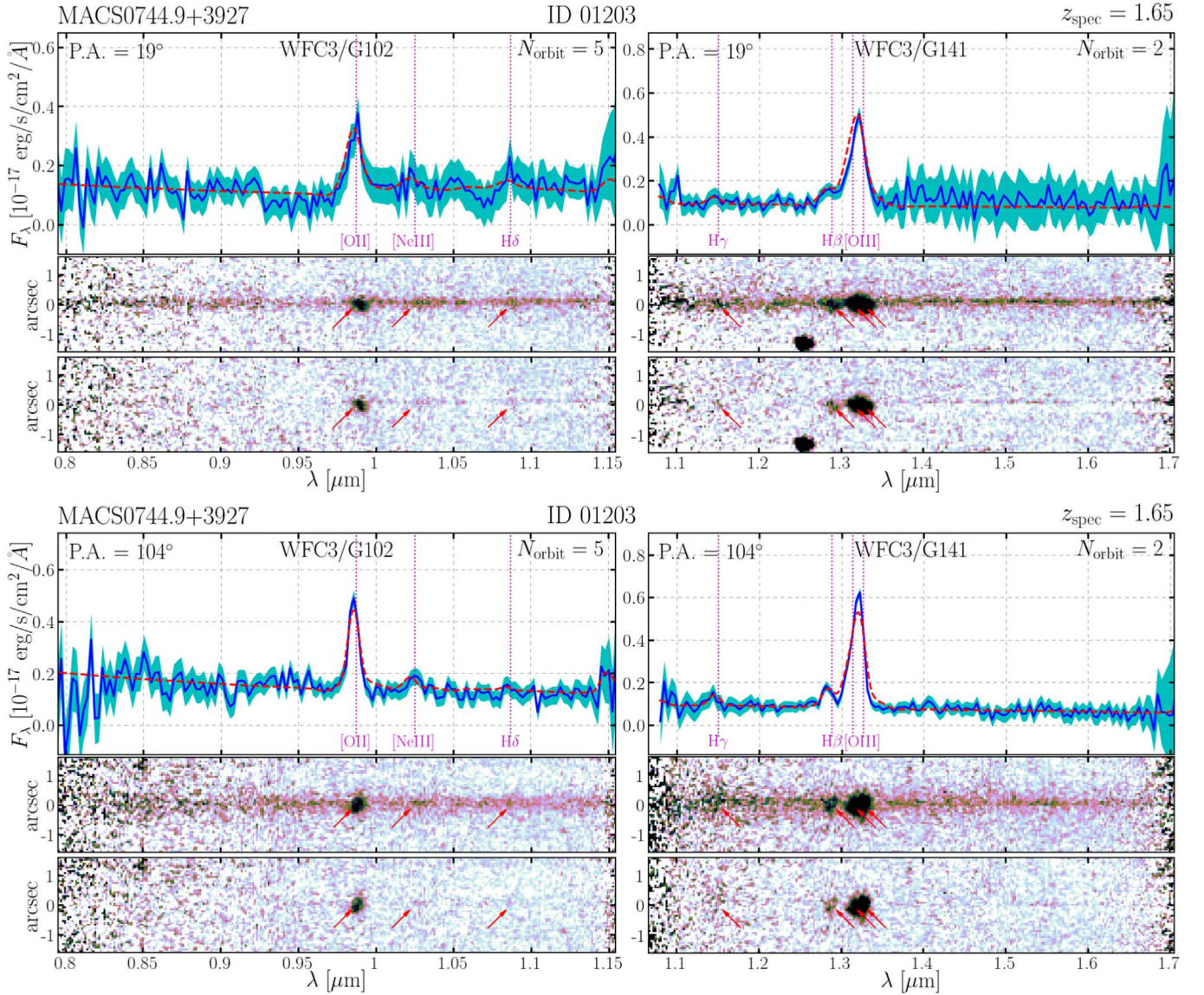


Figure 9. Same as Figure 8, except that source ID 01203 in the field of MACS 0744.9+3927 is shown.

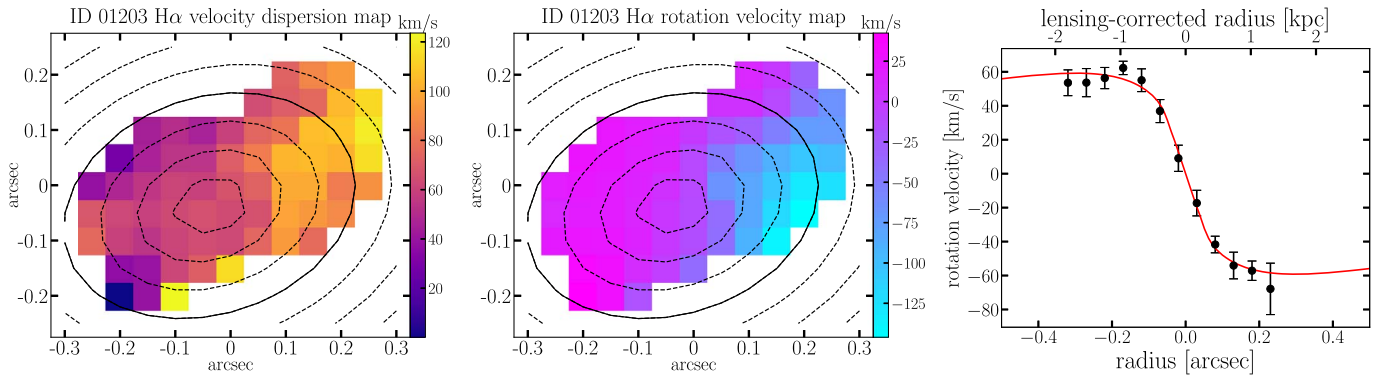
## Appendix B

### Gas Kinematics from Keck OSIRIS Observations

Kinematics of HII regions are of interest both for determining whether rotating gaseous disks are present and for the overall scale of velocity dispersion, which is thought to correlate with the mode of feedback. We have obtained kinematic maps from H $\alpha$  emission for source ID 01203 as part of a GLASS follow-up campaign with the OSIRIS integral-field spectrograph (Larkin et al. 2006) on the Keck I telescope. Full details of the observations and analysis are presented elsewhere (Hirtenstein et al. 2019); here we give a brief summary. Data were obtained on 2016 October 21 using the Hn5 filter, 50 mas scale, and laser guide star AO, which provides the excellent spatial sampling needed to resolve velocity structure on the relevant  $\sim 0''.1$  scales. We obtained three exposures of 900 s each. The OSIRIS Data Reduction Pipeline was used to process the data, following the standard methods adopted in our previous work (Jones et al. 2013). We fit H $\alpha$  line emission in each spaxel with a Gaussian function, requiring  $\geq 5\sigma$  significance for acceptable fits. Gas rotation

velocity ( $V$ ) and velocity dispersion ( $\sigma$ ) are determined from the Gaussian centroid and width. We correct velocity dispersions for the effects of instrument resolution and beam smearing by subtracting these terms in quadrature from the best-fit Gaussian dispersion. The median beam smearing correction is a 7% reduction in  $\sigma$ .

Resulting maps of  $V$  and  $\sigma$  in Figure 10 reveal a sheared velocity field with high local velocity dispersion ( $\gtrsim 50 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ ), common among disk galaxies at similar redshift. To quantify the degree of rotational support, we extract a 1D velocity profile along the kinematic major axis. We fit this with the circular rotation curve of an exponential disk mass profile. The disk rotation curve is in good agreement with the data, with maximum velocity  $V \sin i = 94 \pm 7 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . Here  $i$  is the disk inclination angle relative to the line of sight. The pixel-averaged  $\sigma = 73 \pm 3 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  such that we derive  $V/\sigma = (1.3 \pm 0.1)/\sin i$ , indicating orderly rotation in spite of a high level of ISM turbulence. This  $V/\sigma$  ratio is typical of the galaxy population harboring thick disks at similar mass and redshift (Wisnioski et al. 2015; Leethochawalit et al. 2016).



**Figure 10.**  $H\alpha$  emission kinematics of ID 01203 from our OSIRIS AO-assisted observations showing the velocity dispersion (left), the rotation velocity (center), and rotation curve extracted along the major axis (right). The overlaid contours in the left and center panels also represent the source-plane deprojected galactocentric radii, but in 0.25 kpc intervals. To give a relative scale with respect to our *HST* stamps, the 1 kpc radius contour is still a solid line. The red curve in the right panel is the best-fit rotation curve for an exponential disk mass distribution, giving a maximum line-of-sight velocity  $V \sin i = 94 \pm 7 \text{ km s}^{-1}$ . The data are in good agreement with a thick disk rotation curve despite a high level of turbulence.

### Appendix C

#### A Comparative Study of Metallicity Gradients Derived Using Different Strong-line Calibrations

Generally speaking, three approaches exist in deriving metallicity information in extragalactic sources from spectroscopic observations: the metal recombination line method, the electron temperature  $T_e$  (“direct”) method, and the strong emission line calibration method (see, e.g., Bianco et al. 2015; Blanc et al. 2015; Maiolino & Mannucci 2019 for recent reviews).

The first method is believed to be the most direct measurement of the chemical abundances, because the emissivities of the permitted recombination lines of metal ions are only weakly dependent on  $T_e$  and the electron density  $n_e$  of the ionized media. Yet these recombination lines are extremely weak, usually  $\sim 10^{-3}$ – $10^{-4}$  times fainter than the hydrogen recombination lines, even for the most abundant metal elements such as carbon and oxygen. So the first method is only feasible not far beyond the Local Group (see recent results by, e.g., García-Rojas & Esteban 2007; López-Sánchez et al. 2007; Bresolin et al. 2009; Esteban et al. 2009).

The second method resorts to the CELs of metal ions, given that their emissivities depend strongly on  $T_e$  of the ionized gas, hence this method is usually termed the  $T_e$  method. The flux ratios of the temperature-sensitive auroral to nebular CELs (e.g., [O III]  $\lambda 4363$ /[O III]  $\lambda 5008$ ) are often adopted to estimate  $T_e$ . Yet the auroral lines are intrinsically too faint—usually a few per cent of the strong nebular lines—to be observable in individual galaxies at high redshifts and high metallicity (corresponding to low  $T_e$ ). There are only a handful of such detections to date (Christensen et al. 2012; Stark et al. 2013; James et al. 2014; Sanders et al. 2016; Gburek et al. 2019).

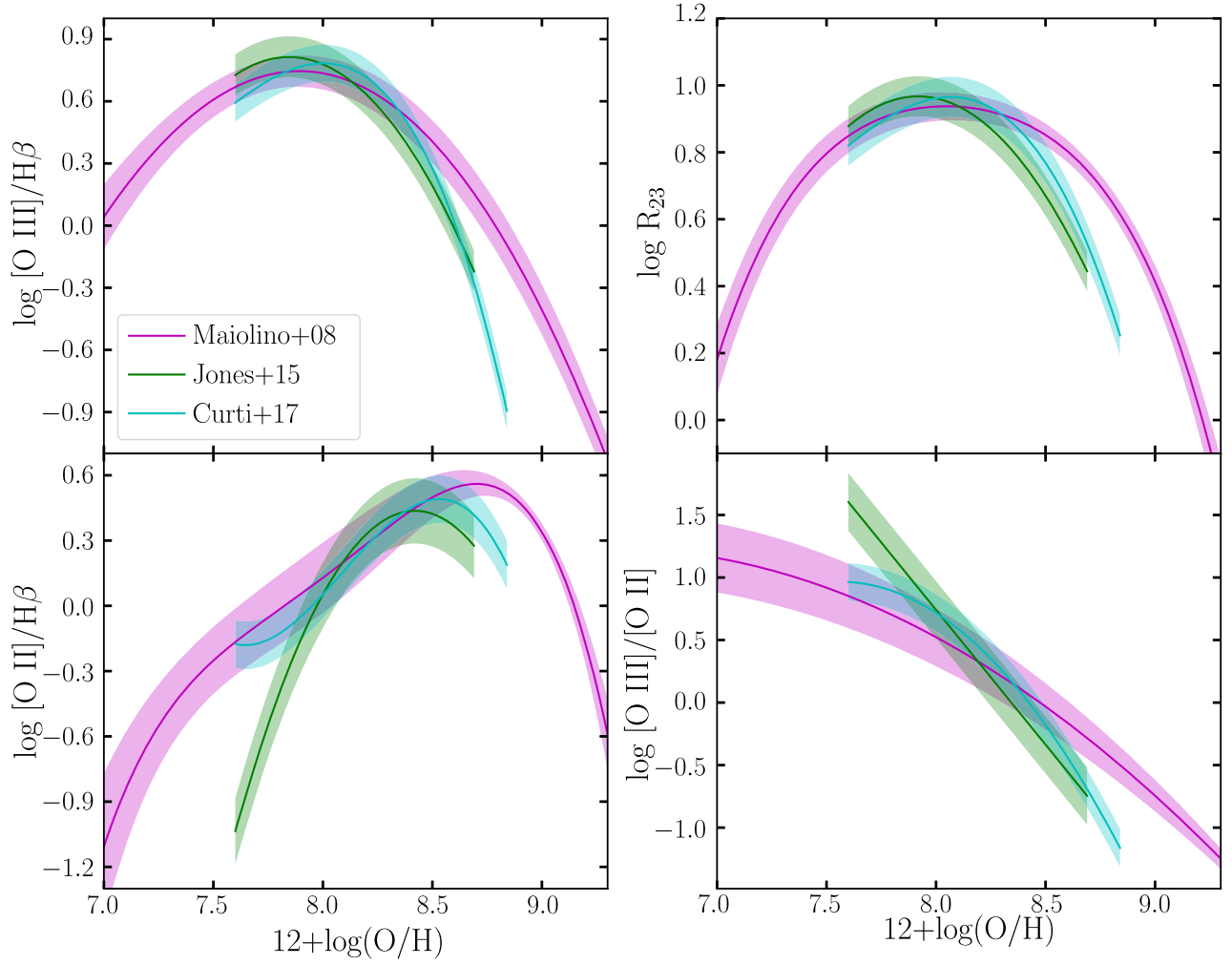
To solve the limitations of the  $T_e$  method, and entail efficient determinations of chemical abundances in faint H II regions in the high- $z$  universe, numerous authors rely on the calibrations of flux ratios involving bright nebular CELs ([O III], [O II], [N II], etc.) and Balmer lines ( $H\alpha$ ,  $H\beta$ ) as a proxy for metallicity (i.e., the strong-line calibration method). These strong lines are among the most accessible species of nebular line emission at high redshifts, thus rendering this third method the most viable approach to estimating metallicity at extragalactic distances. The line flux ratios can be calibrated against direct  $T_e$  measurements in galactic H II regions and nearby

individual or stacked galaxy spectra (Pilyugin 2000, 2001; Pettini & Pagel 2004; Pilyugin & Thuan 2005; Pilyugin et al. 2010, 2012; Gebhardt et al. 2016; Jones et al. 2015a; Brown et al. 2016; Pilyugin & Grebel 2016; Curti et al. 2017; Bian et al. 2018). These calibrations are often referred to as empirical calibrations. Another kind of calibrations is based on the theoretical predictions given by photoionization models (Edmunds & Pagel 1984; McCall et al. 1985; McGaugh 1991; Zaritsky et al. 1994; Kewley & Dopita 2002; Kobulnicky & Kewley 2004; Nagao et al. 2011; Dopita et al. 2013; Strom et al. 2017) and therefore known as theoretical calibrations. In addition, several authors devise a “hybrid” calibration by combining both kinds of line ratio results (Denicoló et al. 2002; Nagao et al. 2006; Maiolino et al. 2008).

Although the strong-line calibration method is most widely used, we must warn readers of some potential systematics associated with it. For instance, Kewley & Ellison (2008) show that different calibrations produce offsets in the absolute scale of the mass–metallicity relation as large as 0.7 dex (also see, e.g., Moustakas et al. 2010; López-Sánchez et al. 2012, for similar conclusions). This primarily originates from the different treatments and assumptions of some secondary parameters that also affect the brightness of strong nebular CELs, e.g., the ionization parameter, hardness of ionizing spectrum, the nitrogen versus oxygen abundance ratio, the cosmic evolutions of  $T_e$  and  $n_e$ , etc.

In particular, the flux ratio of [N II]  $\lambda 6583$  and  $H\alpha$  is one of the most frequently calibrated metallicity diagnostics. But it essentially traces the relative abundance of nitrogen, instead of oxygen, with respect to hydrogen. There have been reported large offsets (0.2–0.4 dex) between the loci of star-forming galaxies locally from SDSS and at high  $z$  in the Baldwin–Phillips–Terlevich (BPT; Baldwin et al. 1981) diagram (Steidel et al. 2014; Shapley et al. 2015; Strom et al. 2018). This indicates that extending the locally calibrated strong-line diagnostics involving nitrogen to high  $z$  can be potentially problematic, due to the evolving ionization conditions in the ISM (Strom et al. 2017).

On the other hand, the flux ratios between oxygen CELs and  $H\beta$  are also popular diagnostics, particularly  $R_{23} = (f_{[\text{O III}] \lambda 5008} + f_{[\text{O III}] \lambda 4960} + f_{[\text{O II}]})/f_{H\beta}$ . However, due to its bimodality, one often has to pre-determine the locations of metallicity branches before applying it (López-Sánchez & Esteban 2010; Guo et al. 2016). This has presented some challenges, especially when the



**Figure 11.** Strong-line metallicity calibrations used and tested in this work. The group of “O3Hb–O2Hb” calibrations is shown on the left, and the “R23–O3O2” group on the right. The corresponding coefficients of these calibrations from all three compilations are presented in Table 2.

**Table 2**  
Coefficients for the Strong-line Metallicity Calibrations Used and Tested in this Work

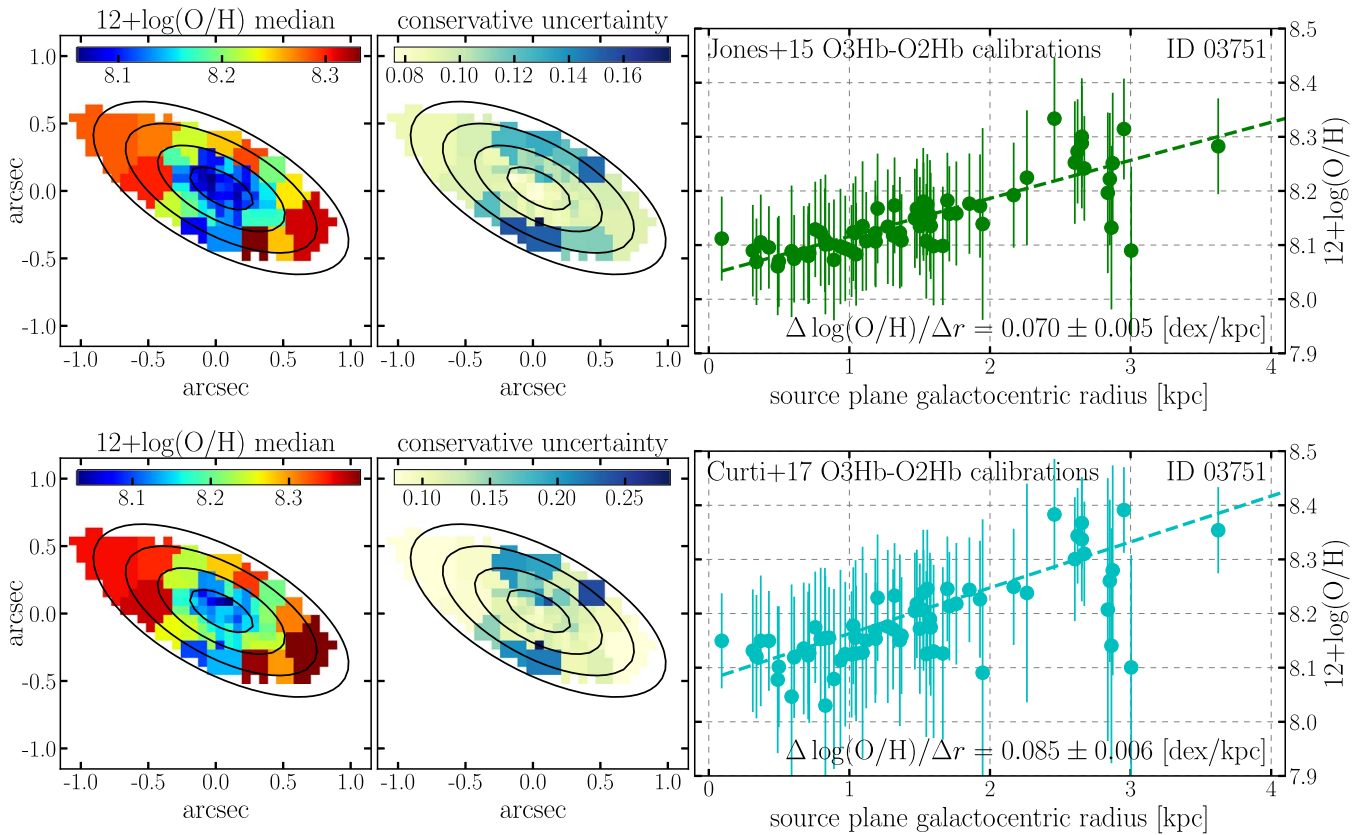
Group <sup>a</sup>	log $R$	$c_0$	$c_1$	$c_2$	$c_3$	$c_4$	$\sigma_{\log R}$ <sup>b</sup> (dex)
Calibrations of Maiolino et al. (2008)							
O3Hb–O2Hb	[O III]/H $\beta$	0.1549	–1.5031	–0.9790	–0.0297	...	0.1
	[O II]/H $\beta$	0.5603	0.0450	–1.8017	–1.8434	–0.6549	0.15
R23–O3O2	$R_{23}$	0.7462	–0.7149	–0.9401	–0.6154	–0.2524	0.05
	[O III]/[O II] <sup>c</sup>	–0.2839	–1.3881	–0.3172	...	...	0.22
Calibrations of Jones et al. (2015a)							
O3Hb–O2Hb	[O III]/H $\beta$	–88.4378	22.7529	–1.4501	...	...	0.1
	[O II]/H $\beta$	–154.9571	36.9128	–2.1921	...	...	0.15
R23–O3O2	$R_{23}$	–54.1003	13.9083	–0.8782	...	...	0.06
	[O III]/[O II] <sup>c</sup>	17.9828	–2.1552	...	...	...	0.23
Calibrations of Curti et al. (2017)							
O3Hb–O2Hb	[O III]/H $\beta$	–0.277	–3.549	–3.593	–0.981	...	0.09
	[O II]/H $\beta$	0.418	–0.961	–3.505	–1.949	...	0.11
R23–O3O2	$R_{23}$	0.527	–1.569	–1.652	–0.421	...	0.06
	[O III]/[O II] <sup>c</sup>	–0.691	–2.944	–1.308	...	...	0.15

**Notes.** The value of the corresponding EL flux ratio is calculated from the polynomial functional form, i.e.,  $\log R = \sum_i c_i x^i$ , where  $x = 12 + \log(\text{O}/\text{H}) - 8.69$  for the calibrations of Maiolino et al. (2008) and Curti et al. (2017), and  $x = 12 + \log(\text{O}/\text{H})$  for those of Jones et al. (2015a).

<sup>a</sup> To avoid using the same pieces of information repeatedly, we separate the four strong-line calibrations into two groups: “O3Hb–O2Hb” where we combine the flux ratios of [O III]/H $\beta$  and [O II]/H $\beta$ , and “R23–O3O2” where we combine the flux ratios of  $R_{23}$  and [O III]/[O II] instead.

<sup>b</sup> The intrinsic scatter of the calibration quantified in the corresponding reference. This scatter has been included in our Bayesian analysis (see Equation (1)).

<sup>c</sup> In all three compilations of strong-line calibrations, [O III]/[O II] refers to the flux ratio of [O III]  $\lambda$ 5008 and [O II]  $\lambda$ 3727, 3730, i.e., a factor of 3/4 smaller than  $O_{32}$  frequently quoted in the “blue” diagnostic diagrams (see, e.g., Figure 2).



**Figure 12.** Metallicity maps and radial gradients of source ID 03751, determined assuming the “O3Hb–O2Hb” group of calibrations of Jones et al. (2015a) (top) and Curti et al. (2017) (bottom). As in Figure 3, in each row, the left panel shows the median estimates of metallicity in individual Voronoi bins and the central panel shows the corresponding conservative uncertainties. In the right panel, these metallicity estimates are plotted against their source-plane deprojected galactocentric radii. The dashed line represents the best-fit linear regression with the radial gradient slope denoted on the bottom. Albeit different in the exact values of the slope, the gradients are always determined to be strongly inverted, with  $0.070 \pm 0.005$  ( $14.0\sigma$ ) assuming the “O3Hb–O2Hb” calibrations of Jones et al. (2015a) and  $0.085 \pm 0.006$  ( $14.2\sigma$ ) for the “O3Hb–O2Hb” calibrations of Curti et al. (2017).

**Table 3**

Inverted Radial Metallicity Gradients Measured from Two Different Groups of Metallicity Diagnostics of Three Independent Strong-line Calibration Frameworks

Galaxy	Calibration Reference	Group	$\Delta \log(\text{O}/\text{H})/\Delta r$ (dex kpc <sup>-1</sup> )	Significance of Detection (# of $\sigma$ )
ID 03751	Maiolino et al. (2008)	O3Hb–O2Hb	$0.122 \pm 0.008^a$	15.2
		R23–O3O2	$0.087 \pm 0.007$	12.4
	Jones et al. (2015a)	O3Hb–O2Hb	$0.070 \pm 0.005$	14.0
		R23–O3O2	$0.060 \pm 0.005$	12.0
	Curti et al. (2017)	O3Hb–O2Hb	$0.085 \pm 0.006$	14.2
		R23–O3O2	$0.083 \pm 0.006$	13.8
ID 01203	Maiolino et al. (2008)	O3Hb–O2Hb	$0.111 \pm 0.017^a$	6.5
		R23–O3O2	$0.085 \pm 0.011$	7.7
	Jones et al. (2015a)	O3Hb–O2Hb	$0.086 \pm 0.013$	6.6
		R23–O3O2	$0.094 \pm 0.010$	9.4
	Curti et al. (2017)	O3Hb–O2Hb	$0.090 \pm 0.016$	5.6
		R23–O3O2	$0.100 \pm 0.010$	10.0

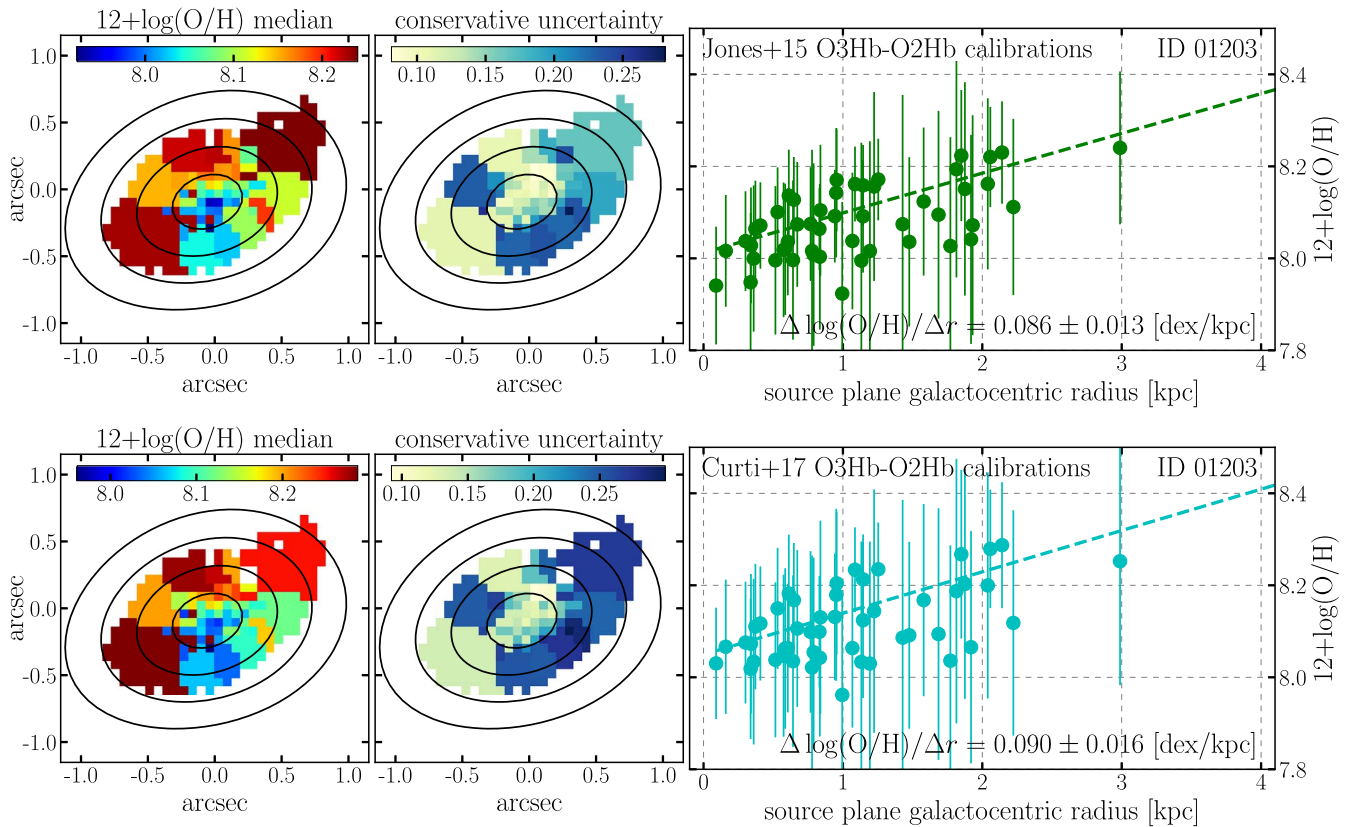
**Note.**

<sup>a</sup> The default results quoted in the main body of the paper (see, e.g., Table 1).

source of interest is believed to be located in the transition regions between the two branches. This dilemma can be effectively alleviated when the ionization and excitation states of the ionized gas are taken into account (Kobulnicky & Kewley 2004; Pilyugin & Thuan 2005; Jiang et al. 2019).

While a detailed quantitative comparison of metallicity gradient measurements from different strong-line calibrations is

well beyond the scope of this work, we want to verify that our results are not significantly altered by the choice of metallicity diagnostics. For this purpose, we employ two of the most up-to-date purely empirical (i.e., calibrated against the actual  $T_e$  metallicities only) strong-line calibrations. Curti et al. (2017) stacked a large number of SDSS galaxy spectra in the redshift range  $0.027 < z < 0.25$  to entail high S/N detection of the



**Figure 13.** Same as Figure 12, except that source ID 01203 is shown. Again we see that strongly inverted gradients emerge from our measurements, i.e.,  $0.086 \pm 0.013$  ( $6.6\sigma$ ) and  $0.090 \pm 0.016$  ( $5.6\sigma$ ) for the “O3Hb–O2Hb” calibrations of Jones et al. (2015a) and Curti et al. (2017), respectively.

auroral [O III]  $\lambda 4363$  lines in the high-metallicity branch, and therefore homogeneously calibrate the strong-line flux ratios over a wide metallicity range. Jones et al. (2015a) first extended the strong-line calibrations to  $z \sim 0.8$  using a sample of galaxies with [O III]  $\lambda 4363$  detected in the DEEP2 Galaxy Redshift Survey. Apart from testing the metallicity diagnostics of  $f_{[\text{O III}]} / f_{\text{H}\beta}$  and  $f_{[\text{O II}]} / f_{\text{H}\beta}$  (i.e., group “O3Hb–O2Hb”) from these independently derived calibration sets, we also employed an alternative group of calibrations (combining  $R_{23}$  and  $f_{[\text{O III}]} / f_{[\text{O II}]}$ , i.e., group “R23–O3O2”) to replace the “O3Hb–O2Hb” ratio diagnostics from the same calibration frameworks. The coefficients of these calibrations are given in Table 2, with their behaviors shown in Figure 11. We note that the results of Jones et al. (2015a) demonstrate that oxygen strong-line diagnostics based on the  $T_e$  method remain reliable at moderate to high redshifts, thus supporting the conclusions of this paper.

Following similar procedures detailed in Section 3, we measure the radial metallicity gradients of our sources using these different groups of strong-line diagnostics from independent calibration sets. The measurement results are summarized in Table 3. We find that although some systematic differences—as large as  $0.06 \text{ dex kpc}^{-1}$ —can be seen in the absolute values of the gradient slope, a positive radial gradient is always derived at high statistical significance for both of our galaxies, i.e.,  $\gtrsim 12\sigma$  for ID 03751 and  $\gtrsim 5\sigma$  for ID 01203, regardless of which group of diagnostics from which calibration works is adopted. Figures 12 and 13 display the metallicity maps and radial gradients determined using the “O3Hb–O2Hb” group of calibrations of Jones et al. (2015a) and Curti et al. (2017) for galaxies ID 03751 and ID 01203, respectively.








We also perform a simple test using the theoretical calibrations by Strom et al. (2017), based on the latest results of the photoionization models incorporating the hard ionizing radiation from binary systems of massive stars as clearly revealed in the KBSS-MOSFIRE data set (Steidel et al. 2014; Strom et al. 2018). Since Strom et al. (2017) did not prescribe the “O3Hb–O2Hb” calibrations as a function of  $12 + \log(\text{O}/\text{H})$  explicitly, we infer the metallicities in the radial bins of our sources using the metallicity indicator “ $X_{\text{O}32-\text{R}23}$ ” (see their Equation (8)). Using the dust-corrected line flux ratios shown in Figure 2, we obtain the metallicity estimates of 8.39 (8.34) and 8.43 (8.46) in the innermost and outermost radial annuli of source ID 03751 (ID 01203), respectively, again confirming the inverted nature of their radial gradient slopes.<sup>18</sup>

For the sake of consistency with our previous and ongoing analyses of metallicity gradient (Jones et al. 2015b; Wang et al. 2017, and X. Wang et al. 2019, in preparation), we decide to keep the gradient measurements derived with the O3Hb–O2Hb calibrations of Maiolino et al. (2008) as our default results.

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<sup>18</sup> We caution readers that the scatter of the metallicity indicator “ $X_{\text{O}32-\text{R}23}$ ” increases dramatically in the range  $12 + \log(\text{O}/\text{H}) \lesssim 8.6$ .

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